

2024 TERMS & CONDITIONS FOR INTERNATIONAL PARTICIPATION WMDF 017

Event Name: 2024 World Music and Dance Festival, Hakodate
“Kokusai Minzoku Geijutsu Sai”
English Web site: <http://wmdf.org/en/>
Place and Country: Hakodate, Japan
Dates: Opens Aug 05 2024, Final Day Aug 11 2024
Theme: “Long Now, Big Here”
Catch Copy: “Every August. For 30,000 people. Worlds Meet in Japan.”
Audience: Maximum 30,000, depending on physical distancing rules
Organisation: Worlds Meet Japan GIA, Committee of the World Music and Dance Festival
Festival Director: Ian Frank
Collaboration: Hakodate City Culture and Sports Promoting Foundation
Assistance: Hakodate City, Hakodate City Board of Education
Artistic Director: Naoto Soga
Production: Hitococochi, Inc.

1. Preliminary Schedule, August 2024:

Sun 04: Latest date for participants' arrival, reception party
Mon 05 - Sun 11: Workshops, Outreach & Evening Festival performance (outdoor stages)
Earliest date for departure of international artists is Mon Aug 12.

Note: Closing Ceremony (with group representatives) is usually held on main stage on the Final Day.

Special Care: The Corona pandemic brought changes in global health protocols & also consequences for international travel and local logistics infrastructure. We employ robust health protection measures as dictated by best event practice. We will make the final call on the feasibility of hosting international artists by the deadline of April 5th: please pay special care to the cancellation conditions of Section 8.

2. Duration of Performances:

- Festival Performances: 15, 20 mins.
- Outreach (Old peoples' homes, schools, etc): 30-40 minutes.
- Outreach (collaborating events/festivals): 10-20 min.
- Workshops (for elementary school children and public): 60 min.

Note: Festival performances bring together many international groups to perform at outdoor stages (weather permitting) in front of a large audience. Our experience is that some WMDF-goers will attend several (or even all) the Festival performances. We therefore hope that visiting groups can prepare Festival sets with some variation.

Outreach performances spread the news of the Festival to different locations around our area, and will typically feature two international groups, maybe also with local Japanese groups.



Festival Performances



Outreach (kindergarten)



Outreach (collaborating festivals)



Workshops



3. Stage Details:

Our stages are all named after stars: the biggest, furthest away, and oldest objects we can see:

• A: Atlas (Main) Stage



- The stage has a frontage of 10.8m and a depth of 9.0m.
- There are 8 Shure 58 microphones (or equivalent) with boom stands, and monitor speakers for performers.
- Standard lighting (RGB) equipment.
- There are no special effects on stage.
- The name signifies “supporting the world” and “enduring”.

• B: Bunda (Second) Stage



- The stage has a frontage of 5.4m and a depth of 3.6m.
- There are 4 Shure 58 microphones (or equivalent) with boom stands, and monitor speakers for performers.
- Standard lighting (RGB) equipment.
- There are no special effects on stage.
- The space in front of the stage can also be used for dancing.
- “Bunda” is one of the three “luck of luck” stars.

• C: Chara Stage



- This “at-home” stage is the result of requests from artists.
- It gives the chance for members of large groups to perform solo, or as smaller groups of just a few people.
- Dimensions 3.6m (width) by 3.6m (depth), with max around 300 audience.
- Three no-name boom stand microphones can be made available.
- No special effects.
- “Chara” is a star whose name is Greek for “joy”.

• E: Eudora Stage



- This stage features the unique backdrop of a historic building that holds a three star award from the Michelin Green Guide Japan.
- There is no physical stage: performers use a space of 5m (width) by 4m (depth) in front of the building (space for dancing can also be accommodated between the 5mx4m area and the audience).
- Three no-name boom stand microphones can be made available.
- There is a YAMAHA mixer, but it does not have phantom power. No monitor speakers.
- The stage is rather dark: no special effects.
- Eudora is from the Greek for “generosity”.

• **G: Gemini Stage**



- Debuting in 2019 with the introduction of the “WMDf Hub” geodesic dome in the center of Motomachi Park.
- There is no physical stage: performers use a space backed by the domed tent.
- The uneven space in front of the stage does not lend itself to dancing.
- Three no-name boom stand microphones can be made available.
- There is a YAMAHA mixer. No monitor speakers.
- Dimensions 5m (width) by 3.6m (depth), with max around 300 audience.
- No special effects.

• **D: Deneb Stage**



- This stage is used mostly for performances aimed at children, or for solo performances. It is not usually used for overseas performers.
- There is no physical stage
- Three no-name boom stand microphones can be made available.
- No special effects.
- Dimensions 4m (width) by 4m (depth), with max around 100 audience.
- The name “Deneb” is from the Arabic for “tail” or “follower”

- **F (Flare) area:** only used for performances by jugglers and “roving” entertainers.

4. Co-located Festivals

The main WMDf event is co-located with two other festivals also produced by “Worlds Meet Japan”.

- The “Mogu Mogu Festival”. The words “Mogu Mogu” are a Japanese onomatopoeia for the sound of eating, but we also use them as an abbreviation of “More Goods, More Gourmet” from around the world. This Festival regularly attracts over 50 vendors from all over Japan, and creates an atmosphere that both audience and artists can thoroughly enjoy. We abbreviate the name to MoguFes.
- The “Waku Waku Festival”. From 2014, we teamed with “Sports Hokkaido” to produce this event that allows kids and kids-at-heart to try out a range of physical activities: “Waku Waku” is a way of saying “excitement” in Japanese. Audience can try out things such as walking on traditional bamboo stilts, and ball games. We abbreviate this Festival to WakuFes.

5. WMDf Agrees To Provide:

- Transport within Hakodate (from point of arrival such as Hakodate station or Hakodate airport to accommodation in Hakodate, between the WMDf festival stages and accommodation, and back to point of Hakodate departure from accommodation at festival end).
- Accommodation and three meals per day for group members.
- (Note that self-funding groups pay 7,000Yen/person/night to cover the above services).
- General event insurance and first aid.
- Adequate dressing room facilities (adjacent to the Atlas and Bunda stages).
- Provisions to support the sale of CDs and other small goods at primary events.

Note: Since we cannot be responsible for the security of expensive items, or large amounts of currency, we ask that participants do not bring large numbers of goods, or goods with high intrinsic value. The WMDf application form requests a list of goods with prices in yen. WMDf cannot be responsible for errors in exchange rate calculations, and we reserve the right to refuse to sell items not described to us in the application form beforehand.



6. Participants Agree To:

- Play live music (not tapes, CDs, etc.)
- Perform with up to 15 people (or 25 people for groups including dancers).
- Perform on one stage each festival day, with the exception of a day off.
- Perform at Outreach locations scheduled by WMDF. There are generally a maximum of two Outreach performances per group during the festival, which are usually in the mornings.
- Cover all transport and expenses to Hakodate from country of origin, and back from Hakodate after the festival is completed.
- Ensure current medical insurance (please bring a copy of certificate for us).
- Pay own visa application fees.
- Be in attendance for the entire Festival period.

Note 1: Groups wishing to attend with more than the maximum numbers listed above may incur an extra charge of 7,000Yen/person/night. However, we have in the past granted exemptions for extra group members, so we encourage you to contact WMDF early to discuss your situation. Please be aware that it may only be possible to make the final decision on excess charges once WMDF has decided on its final list of participants.

Note 2: We do not recommend arriving in Sapporo. It is far from Hakodate and will add a five hour coach journey to your route. August is peak season, so internal flights may be crowded; please book early. There are several daily flights between Tokyo and Hakodate, and one flight from Kansai.

Note 3: Stays shorter than the Festival duration should be discussed with us in advance.

Note 4: During your stay, it is likely that you may be accompanied by television or print media reporters. Reasonable cooperation with these reporting activities, and the agreement to allow footage, images, and interviews to be used in TV broadcasts, and for publicity and advertisement of the WMDF, are assumed to be a condition of participation at the Festival.

7. “Do-er in Residence”

This is a special category of WMDF participation, involving the extended stay in the South Hokkaido region of selected overseas arts professionals. The aim of the residence is to leverage cultural and educational activities as a local springboard towards international impact. Conditions are mutually agreed by independent discussion, and may differ from those above.

8. Cancellation Policies

Since our inception as an international event in 2008, we ran uninterrupted every summer until 2020, including a full festival in the year of Tohoku earthquake (2011). The Corona virus pandemic forced us to abort the international portion of our 2020 event, after early and extensive correspondence with all concerned parties. In 2020, we created a physical distancing spectacle featuring only local artists, and in 2021 we created and ran a fully online “WMDF Show”. We then moved back full-scale international events in Motomachi Park, running three days in 2022 and five days in 2023. All international participants agree to the conditions that:

- The **final decision on staging WMDF in 2024 will be made by 5 April 2024**. We will carefully consider the world situation in judging the safety and practicality of mounting a large-scale international event.
- In the event of cancellation or downscaling of the international portion of the event, **neither WMDF nor any of its organisers bear any liability for inconvenience to or costs incurred by intended participants**, whether the costs be directly monetary such as expenditures on travel tickets, or indirect disadvantages such as expenditure of time.
- There may be other exceptional situations such as natural disaster or life-threatening safety considerations under which unexpected event cancellation or downscaling is deemed necessary. Although every possible effort will be made, again no financial liability can be borne by WMDF or any of its organisers.
- In the event of cancellation or downscaling of the 2024 festival, those holding invitations will be **given priority in the selection process for the 2025 festival**, with decisions being made and new invitations being sent as soon as possible after the Online Registration Deadline (after Nov 2024).

WMDF will always do its utmost to communicate promptly and clearly about all issues. For the 2024 event, every effort will be made to share information before the final decision date of 5 April listed above.



9. Application Notes:

Note 1: Participation in WMDF implies the acceptance of the rights of WMDF to place representative short videos of performances online.

Note 2: In 2011, we introduced an “Open Japan” policy to help show the world that the country was recovering from the Great Tohoku Earthquake. We are continuing this policy of encouraging audience members to photograph and video the WMDF stages, and to post online to show the world that Japan is open. For videos, we ask audience members to display common sense: we think that around one minute is a fair length to record, and our staff will ask people obviously making recordings longer than this to stop. In general, WMDF reserves on behalf of the artists the exclusive copyright for all photographs and recordings made at any venue, and the above permission to record and use images of WMDF stages excludes any usage that leads to profit-making. If you would prefer us to modify this policy for your performances, please let us know in advance.

Contact: Worlds Meet Japan

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Note: We are sorry but since our office cannot guarantee telephone interaction in a language other than Japanese, we request you put your correspondence in fax or email. Please also note that the WMDF email is generally only staffed on weekdays from 9am to 5pm, Japan time.

