



# 3<sup>rd</sup> Sing'n' Pray Kobe

International Choir Festival & Competition  
January 25-29, 2024 | Kobe, Japan







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## International Choir Festival & Competition January 25-29, 2024 | Kobe, Japan

### **Organizer**

INTERKULTUR

### **in cooperation with**

Hyogo Choral Association

### **supported by**

Kobe City Government

### **President INTERKULTUR**

Günter Titsch (Germany)

### **Honorary Artistic Director**

Yoshio Saida (Japan), Vice Chairman of Japan Choral Association

### **Artistic Director Kobe 2024**

Johan Rooze (Netherlands), Artistic Director

### **INTERKULTUR Artistic Committee**

Prof. Dr. Ralf Eisenbeiß (Germany), Honorary Artistic President

Fred Sjöberg (Sweden), Senior Artistic Director

Prof. Romāns Vanags (Latvia), Artistic Director

### **Project Management**

Masahiro Kishimoto (Japan), National Project Director

Jana Kalniņa (Latvia), Project Manager INTERKULTUR

### **INTERKULTUR Executive Committee**

Günter Titsch (Germany)

Qin Wang (China)

Stefan Bohländer (Germany)

Dr. Christoph Wirtz (Germany), Secretary General



**Phnom Penh**  
**First International** **20**  
**Choir**  
**Competition** **24**

**MAY 29-JUNE 2, 2024**  
**CAMBODIA**





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## PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES



**China**



**Chinese Taipei**



**Indonesia**



**Japan**



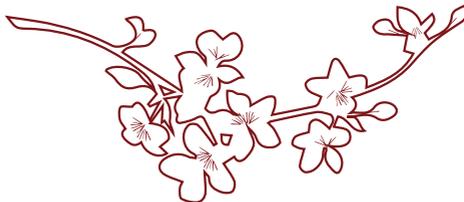
**Republic of Korea**



**USA**



**Vietnam**









# GREETINGS





## Günter Titsch

President of INTERKULTUR

Dear friends of choral music,

It is my great pleasure to extend a warm welcome to all participants, music enthusiasts, and cherished guests to the vibrant city of Kobe for the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of "Sing'n'Pray Kobe" 2024. Building on the success of our inaugural festival in 2018, I am delighted to witness the continued collaboration between INTERKULTUR, the Hyogo Choral Association, and the generous support of the Kobe City Government.

I express my heartfelt gratitude for the trustful cooperation that has allowed the international competition to blossom into a celebration of Music of Spirit and Faith. Aside from the competitions, the Sing'n'Pray Kobe places a special emphasis on the Friendship Concerts, echoing our commitment to fostering peace between countries and religions—an essential message in our contemporary world.

With the participation of 13 choirs from 7 nations from January 25 to 29, 2024, our festival embodies the spirit of unity and cultural exchange, transcending borders through the power of music. As the choirs converge

in Kobe, their performances will serve as a powerful testament to the transformative potential of music in bridging divides. The "Pray from Kobe" concert will furthermore unite voices in a collective expression of hope, prayer, and solidarity, resonating through the heart of Kobe.

As we embark on this musical journey, let the melodies and harmonies created here reverberate far beyond the concert halls, carrying the message of peace and understanding. Thank you for being an integral part of Sing'n'Pray Kobe 2024 - a celebration where the world unites through the universal language of music.

With sincere appreciation,

Günter Titsch  
President INTERKULTUR

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Günter Titsch". The signature is stylized and fluid, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.





## Motohiko Saito

Governor of Hyogo Prefecture

I sincerely rejoice that the “PRAY FROM KOBE: Leading to Tomorrow” concert is held again this year.

This year the international choral competition and festival “SING’N’ PRAY KOBE 2024” is also held along with the concert, and we are welcoming many people from overseas.

The concert brought prayers of remembrance to the victims of the disaster and conflict from Kobe city, which experienced the disaster. I heard that a disaster prevention symposium will be held welcome members of Miyagi Choral Association.

At a time when the international situation continues to be chaotic, I pray that the prayers for peace and reconstruction in your singing will reach all over the world. I sincerely wish the concert a success and the good health and success of everyone in the hall today.

Motohiko Saito  
Governor of Hyogo Prefecture

齋藤元彦



## Kizo Hisamoto

Mayor of Kobe

I heartily congratulate you on the “PRAY FROM KOBE: Leading to Tomorrow” concert.

The Hyogo Prefecture Choral Association was founded in 1963 as a part of All Japan Choral Association to promote choral music and to improve the technique. They hold several events such as the Chorus Festival in June, Choral Competition for junior-high and high school students in August, and Hyogo Vocal Ensemble Contest in February. I am respectful of all the passionate activities.

The association also organizes events with prayers for the sufferings in the areas hit by natural disasters including the great earthquakes and typhoons, and keeps sending the encouraging messages through singing voices.

This year the symposium is held in addition to the performances by a boys and girls’ choir, a junior-high and high school choir, a female choir, a mixed choir, and the special choir from Miyagi prefecture.

Especially this year the international choral competition and festival “SING’N’ PRAY KOBE 2024” is also held along with the concert. we look forward to hearing voices of many choirs from overseas.

I hope the Hyogo Prefecture Choral Association will also continue to support us create the more attractive city through choral exchanges. I hope that the concert will be successful and pray for the prosperity of your association.

Kizo Hisamoto  
Mayor of Kobe

久元喜造



## Yoshio Saida

Vice President of Japan Choral Association

Thank you very much for coming to the “PRAY FROM KOBE: Leading to Tomorrow”. This concert started in 2012 with the aim of providing reconstruction support to people affected by the East Japan Earthquake, and will be held for the 12<sup>th</sup> time this year. This year the international choral competition and festival “SING’N’ PRAY KOBE 2024” is also held along with the concert.

This concert is special in that in commemoration of the Imperial succession from Heisei to Reiwa, Mr. Hideki CHIHARA composed music to the poems by His Majesty the Emperor Emeritus and Her Majesty the Empress Emerita, and the song will be performed again in the concert.

We are grateful to the grand emperor and grand empress for the wonderful poems, to the Imperial Household Agency for this opportunity, and to Mr. Hideki CHIHARA for the “concertino per coro e pianoforte”, “Corale maestoso, Aria amorosa”. We are performing this with Mr. Mikio HAYAKAWA, Vice President

of Miyagi Prefecture Choral Association, and Ms. Noriko NAITO, the pianist, with a hope to encourage and support the people and areas read in the poems.

I would like to express my gratitude to the composer, the performers and all the audience today. Your prayers will be sent to the areas in need. I would like you also to enjoy the international choral competition and festival “SING’N’ PRAY KOBE” held with the prayers for world peace through singing.

Yoshio Saida  
Vice President of Japan Choral Association

齋田好男



October 2-6, 2024  
Tagbilaran City, Bohol, Philippines

# Sing'n'Joy Bohol 2024

Philippine International Choir Competition

[interkultur.com/bohol2024](http://interkultur.com/bohol2024)





## ABOUT INTERKULTUR



## ... CONNECTING BRIDGES.

**30 years of success:** Since 1988 INTERKULTUR, founded by Günter Titsch, is the world's leading organizer of international choir competitions and festivals. The event series has meanwhile become known throughout the world for its high artistic and organizational standards. INTERKULTUR is a concept for choirs all over the world and their excitement about its competitions and festivals is constantly growing.

Since more than 30 years singers and choirs from all over the world have been celebrating international choral music with INTERKULTUR in different cities and on different continents. Whether the Palau de la Música in Barcelona or the Brucknerhaus Linz, whether dream destinations in South Africa or Vietnam; wherever they go, participants will experience a peaceful, world-spanning festival of singing and intercultural choral music on a high artistic level. Friendship Concerts and joint singing events complete the great emotional impact of INTERKULTUR's international choral meetings.

**INTERKULTUR unites nations.** In 2004 and 2006 – following long negotiations – the organization was able to bring choirs from North and South Korea together on stage. Also choirs from countries like Israel and Iran keep coming together at the choir festivals and light a beacon of peace in Friendship Concerts.

**Participation is the highest honor.** INTERKULTUR's biggest success to date was to bring the antique Olympic idea to the choral community. The Choir Olympics 2000 in Linz, Austria was the beginning of a Choir Olympic movement, which goes around the world until today: Its story of success continues with subsequent events in Busan, Republic of Korea in 2002 and Bremen, Germany in 2004, and as of 2006 under the name "World Choir Games" in Xiamen, China; Graz, Austria in 2008; Shaoxing, China in 2010; Cincinnati, USA in 2012; Riga, Latvia in 2014 and the Winter Olympics City of Sochi, Russia in 2016. The 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary edition of the World Choir Games in 2018 happened on African soil for the first time: Tshwane in South Africa attracted more than 300 choirs and more than 16,000 participants in July 2018. Due to the worldwide COVID-19 pandemic the 11<sup>th</sup> edition of the World Choir Games hosted by the cities of Antwerp and Ghent in Belgium had to be postponed from July 2020 to the fall 2021. For the first time in the event's history these Games took place as a hybrid event with live competitions in Flanders and an additional Virtual Competitions part. The 12<sup>th</sup> edition of the event invited choirs from around the world to Gangneung, Republic of Korea in summer 2023. The 13<sup>th</sup> World Choir Games will happen on a new continent again: Auckland in New Zealand welcomes international singers in July 2024.



Since 2007 INTERKULTUR has been transferring the idea of the World Choir Games also to different continents: The **Asia Pacific Choir Games** took place for the 4<sup>th</sup> time already in October 2017, and in 2025 the first **African Asia Pacific Choir Games** will be held on the dream island Mauritius. In 2013 the **European Choir Games** premiered in Graz, Austria. Subsequent editions of the event were held in Magdeburg, Germany (2015), in Latvian capital Riga (2017) and the Swedish cities of Gothenburg (2019) and Norrköping (2023), along with the **Grand Prix of Nations**, which addresses international top choirs. The next edition of the European Choir Games will happen in Aarhus, Denmark in the summer of 2025

### **The Idea**

INTERKULTUR has become the symbol for a unique artistic idea: In comparison to traditional meritorious choir competitions that only invite international elite choirs to take part, the INTERKULTUR competitions are open to all non-professional choirs. Choirs from all over the world, interested in gaining international festival and competition experience, can compete according to their level of artistic achievement. INTERKULTUR has opened a door to new impulses and perspectives for the national and international choral movement.

### **The Competitions**

There are various categories for all types and levels of choirs in different degrees of difficulty, with or without compulsory pieces. The competitions offer good, competitive conditions, valuable, artistic contacts, various workshops and seminars, as well as practice opportunities with international performers. More than 200 experts and leading choirmasters from all over the world guarantee a high level of expertise in all INTERKULTUR events.

### **Evaluation System**

The jury awards Bronze, Silver, and Gold Diplomas on 10 levels at INTERKULTUR competitions according to the MUSICA MUNDI® evaluation system (30-points-system); and Bronze, Silver and Gold Medals at the World Choir Games, the Asia Pacific Choir Games, the European Choir Games and the Grand Prix of Nations according to the World Choir Games evaluation system (100-points-system). In each category, a Winner or Champion is determined and outstanding achievements are honored with Special Prizes. In some competitions there is a Grand Prize Competition of the best choirs selected by the international jury which determines the overall winner of the competition.

## World Rankings

TOP choirs, results and updated statistics about our festivals on our website

[www.interkultur.com](http://www.interkultur.com)

### The Pedagogical Concept

INTERKULTUR events are not only competitions and international choir festivals, but also serve as professional development such as providing feedback from various pedagogical offerings. In Evaluation Performances or Individual Coachings, choirs have the chance to work with international jury members and gain advice on their current level of achievement, receive proficient pedagogical and artistic information and obtain suggestions as to how to interpret the chosen piece. The MUSICA MUNDI® Choir Academy gives new impetus especially to young choir conductors in China.

Every two years the World Choir Council consisting of currently 146 members representing 96 countries and regions comes together during the World Choir Games to discuss the choral scenes in their respective home countries. These meetings make an important contribution to the development of the international choral scene.

### Locations of Festivals and Competitions

To date, INTERKULTUR events have taken place in Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Croatia, France, Germany, Great Britain, Greece, Hungary, Indonesia, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Malaysia, Malta, Netherlands, People's Republic of China, South Africa, Portugal, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Russia, Serbia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Thailand, USA and Vietnam. Many cities have been convinced of the success of INTERKULTUR events and establish regular choir festivals or apply repeatedly to host more unifying major events.

### The Participants

In total, roughly 10,600 choirs with more than 450,000 active singers from 109 countries have taken part in the INTERKULTUR competitions to date. An interesting note is that more than half of the participants have been children and youth up to 27 years of age and 67% of the participating choirs are returning ensembles looking forward to new destinations and new choral challenges. Many of them constantly increase their achievements – from first little successes to a Gold Medal or the sought-after Champions title.

### Means of Support

In accordance with its statutes, INTERKULTUR supports the following activities:

- International music festivals and choir competitions whose goal is to bring together choirs from different regions of the world and encourage international collaboration through mutual respect, as well as to contribute to cultural exchange and understanding among nations
- Children and youth choirs even from financially challenged countries
- Non-professional choirs that focus on the growth of youth development
- Young, talented choirmasters, young musicians and singers through the support of scholarship awards
- Specific sponsorship opportunities



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www.cicfbj.cn

  
CICF7992  
中国国际合唱节  
China International Chorus Festival

2024.7.15-7.19  
BEIJING, CHINA

在北京,听世界的歌声!  
COME TO BEIJING,  
LISTEN TO THE SONGS OF THE WORLD!

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2024 17<sup>th</sup> CICF China International Chorus Festival  
第十七届中国国际合唱节





# ABOUT KOBE



## ABOUT KOBE



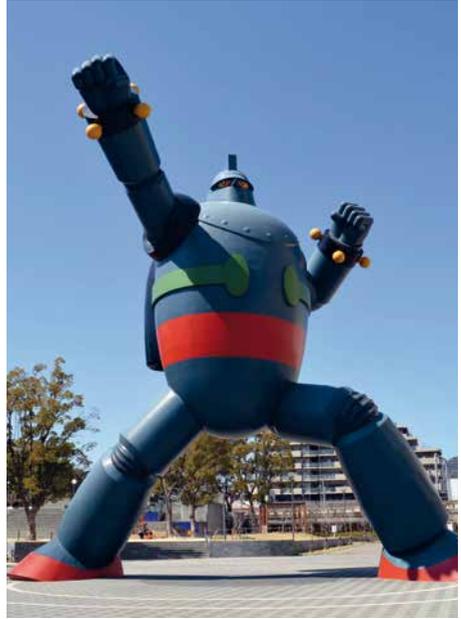
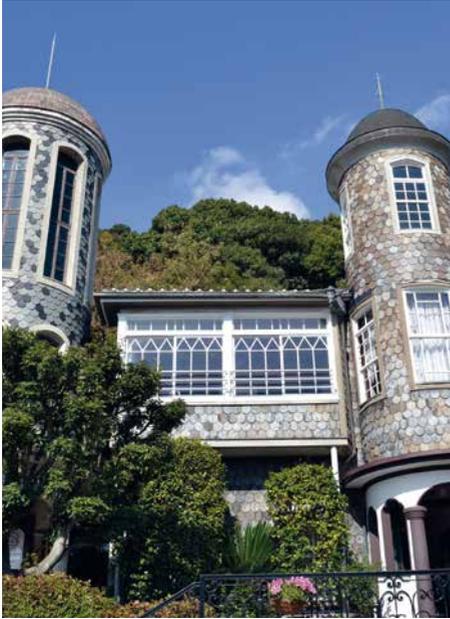
Kobe is a vibrant port city and hub for people, information and goods from around the world. Its location nestled between the mountains and sea gives the city beautiful natural diversity - skiing on the Rokko Mountains, relaxing in the Arima Onsen Hot Springs, or playing at the beach. Kobe has a laid-back and open atmosphere which can be enjoyed all throughout the year. The city is a great choice not only as a tourist destination but also as a place to do business, with a wide range of industries and outstanding business environment.

What's more, Kobe's safety and friendliness and excellent infrastructure give the city everything needed for a comfortable lifestyle.

Located almost at the centre of the Japanese archipelago on the Seto Inland Sea, Kobe has developed along with the opening of the Port of Kobe in 1868. A Foreign Settlement that formed near the port became the doorway by which foreign cultures entered Japan. This settlement also played an important role in bringing a stylish and modern atmosphere to the entire city.

At the same time, various industries began taking shape at the Port of Kobe.

Ever since Japan was opened to the world, Kobe has been a cosmopolitan port city where people, goods, and information from around the globe are in constant motion. Now, Kobe has a population of 1.54 million including 42,000 foreign residents from as many as 132 different countries, and is well known throughout Japan as being an "international city".



In 1995, Kobe and the surrounding area were struck by the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake, causing 4,751 deaths within the city and destroying or damaging much of the city's infrastructure. In the years since, with considerable help and support from people throughout Japan and the world, the citizens of Kobe have rebuilt the city into the hub it is today.







## ARTISTIC DIRECTOR AND JURY



Netherlands

## Johan Rooze

Artistic Director of the 3<sup>rd</sup> International Choir Festival & Competition "Sing'n'Pray Kobe"



Johan Rooze studied Classic Piano, Choral and Orchestral Conducting at the Utrecht Conservatory of Music in the Netherlands. He went to the U.S. to study with Phil Mattson, Michelle Weir and others to specialize in Jazz Piano, Singing and Arranging.

He was founder and Musical Director of the Utrecht University Vocal Group "Dekoor". They won The Netherlands Choir Festival, The International Vocal Group Festival and the "Idols for choir" TV show, "Korenslag" 2007 in the Netherlands.

He was Musical Director of the Utrecht Student Choir and Orchestra. With the two student choirs he made tours all over the world. In 2008 he received the honorary "Zilveren Penning" (Silver Medal) of the Utrecht University.

He founded the "Dudok-Ensemble" Project Choir and Orchestra, conducted the Bach Cantata Society in Utrecht and was guest conductor of the National Radio Choir.

He taught Vocal Jazz Ensemble, Choral Conducting and Arranging at the Conservatories of Rotterdam and Alkmaar in the Netherlands.

In 2008 he moved to Daegu, South Korea, taught Music at Keimyung University and Choir and Jazz Piano at Yeongnam University in Daegu. He is the Musical Director of the Daegu Jazz Singers, the Daegu Chamber Choir and Conductor of the Beomeo Cathedral in Daegu.

Besides his choral work he is very active as a Jazz Pianist and Arranger, and a frequently asked as guest conductor, lecturer and workshopleader.

Since 2012 he is Artistic Director for the international choral organization INTERKULTUR.



Japan

## Kentaro Sato

Jury Member



Kentaro Sato, Ken-P to his friends, is an award-winning composer, conductor, and lyricist. Born in Japan and trained in the United States, Ken-P is the orchestral and choral mastermind behind video game titles such as ELDEN RING, and DISSIDIA Final Fantasy series to name a few. He has worked with renowned ensembles such as the London Symphony Orchestra, the Philharmonia Orchestra, the Sydney Symphony Orchestra, and the Czech Philharmonic to realize music for many films and media projects.

In the concert choral music world, Sato is best known as the winner of the prestigious ACDA Raymond W. Brock Memorial Composition Contest for "Kyrie" from Missa pro Pace (Mass for Peace), which was premiered at the 2005 ACDA National Convention in Los Angeles. He is also a frequent guest conductor and lecturer for various choral workshops and reading sessions around the world and for various choral and instrumental conducting and composition workshops and reading sessions around the world.

Sato was born in Hamamatsu, Japan, a manufacturing city known for musical instruments. He received a Master of Music in Choral Conducting with Distinction and a Bachelor of Music in Media Writing from California State University, Northridge. In addition to his music degrees, he holds a degree in cinema from Santa Monica College.

Philippines

## Maria Theresa Vizconde-Roldan

Jury Member



Dr. Maria Theresa Vizconde-Roldan is an accomplished choral pedagogue and choir conductor. She graduated Summa Cum Laude with a Doctor of Musical Arts from Saint Paul University Manila Graduate School. She has also obtained a bachelor's degree, Cum Laude, and a master's degree from the University of Santo Tomas (UST) Conservatory of Music.

In recognition of her expertise, Maria has been invited to participate as a choral clinician and adjudicator at events in the United States of America, Europe, and Asia. Additionally, she has led master classes in conducting and holding lectures and workshops on choral performance and music education.

She is known for her choral method, GESTAPHOR and Groundwork for Part-Singing. Her choral works have been published, performed, and premiered at international choral festivals and competitions. Hal Leonard and Pavane in the USA published these works.

Maria and her husband Jude founded the Treble Choir Association of the Philippine to propagate Filipino choral music and strengthen the movement of children's choir performance and choral education in the Philippines. Under this association are the Young Voices of the Philippines and Kantabella, the scholar choirs conducted by Maria, who also serves as their Artistic Director.

In line with their advocacy, Maria and Jude arrange Filipino folksongs and write choral music. They have organized a series of workshops for conductors around Southeast Asia entitled "Groundwork for Choirs." They also launched a book, "Groundwork for Part-Singing", which contains a collection of short pieces to aid in developing foundational part-singing skills. To promote the Philippine choral music and Southeast Asian composers, Maria, in partnership with Muziksea, produced the Maria Theresa Vizconde-Roldan Choral Adventures Series. In carrying out this series, Theresa wanted to help composers and arrangers by supporting their works and producing choral literature.

Presently, Maria is the Vice President for Projects, Philippine Choral Directors Association since 2016 and President, Treble Choir Association of the Philippines since 2019. She teaches at the UST Conservatory of Music.



Australia

## Lyn Williams

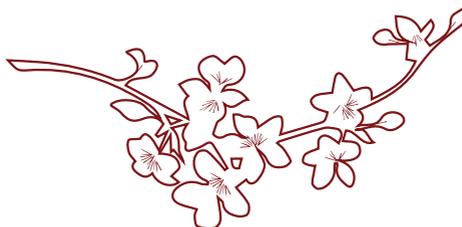
Jury Member



Lyn Williams is widely regarded as one of Australia's finest choral conductors. For over 30 years, Lyn has harnessed the incredible power of young voices through her world-renowned ensembles: the Sydney Children's Choir, Gondwana Voices, the Gondwana Indigenous Children's Choir and Marliya. Her choirs have appeared with the world's leading orchestras and conductors and at festivals including the BBC Proms and Polyfolia.

Lyn has commissioned over 200 works from composers across Australia and around the world and her ability to forge innovative and meaningful collaborations is widely recognised. She continues to foster strong relationships with First Nations artists across Australia, bringing together cultural custodians and composers to create new works which preserve and celebrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island languages and cultures. Lyn enjoys a long-standing collaboration with singer-songwriter Felix Riebl of the Cat Empire and the singers of Marliya, presenting the critically-acclaimed show Spinifex Gum, which has featured at almost every Australian arts festival since its premiere at the Adelaide Festival in 2018.

Lyn has been the recipient of many national awards for her work with choirs.







## GENERAL SCHEDULE

AY KOBE



## GENERAL SCHEDULE

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 25, 2024**

**Harbor Café at Hotel Crown Palais**  
**19:00 h**

Opening Reception for conductors (invitees only)

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 26, 2024**

**Bunka Hall, Rehearsal Room**  
**12:15 h**

Workshop with Maria Theresa Vizconde-Roldan

**Bunka Hall, Rehearsal Room**  
**19:00 h**

Workshop with Kentaro Sato



**SATURDAY, JANUARY 27, 2024****Bunka Hall, Medium Hall  
14:00 h**

Competition in Category M1 – Music of Spirit and Faith – Children’s and Youth Choirs,  
Competition in O1 – Children’s and Youth Choirs

**Bunka Hall, Medium Hall  
15:15 h**

Competition in Category O2 – Adult Choirs

**Bunka Hall, Medium Hall  
16:30 h**

Competition in Category M2 – Music of Spirit and Faith – Adult Choirs

**Bunka Hall, Medium Hall  
18:00 h**

Open Stage and Sing Together

Everyone is invited to sing again on Bunka Hall stage, and share their music with other choirs.

Join us for an enchanting evening of musical friendship at the Choir Open Stage Celebration! After the competition and before the results are announced, seize the opportunity to express the unique spirit of your choir on the grand Bunka Hall Main Stage. Feel the thrill as you share your favorite songs or showcase the exceptional pieces that captivated audiences during the competition.

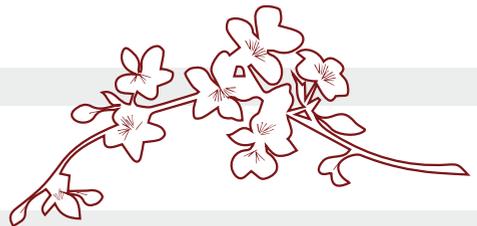
Let the music resonate as you create lasting memories in this unique celebration of musical unity. Don’t miss this chance to be part of an unforgettable evening where choirs unite, celebrate, and share the joy of music on the splendid stage of Bunka Hall.

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 28, 2024****Bunka Hall, Main Hall  
14:00 h**

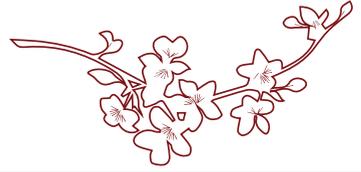
Pray from Kobe Concert

**Bunka Hall, Main Hall  
16:30 h**

Awards & Closing Ceremony



## WORKSHOPS



FRIDAY, JANUARY 26, 2024

**Bunka Hall Rehearsal room**  
12:15 h

### **Dive into the Heartbeat of the Philippines: Sing Along Workshop with Maria Theresa Vizconde-Roldan**

Join us for a vibrant and interactive Sing Along workshop led by the esteemed Maria Theresa Vizconde-Roldan. Immerse yourself in the rich tapestry of traditional Filipino songs and games that reflect the cultural diversity of the Philippines. This engaging workshop not only promises a fun-filled experience but also serves as a valuable opportunity to enhance and refine part-singing skills for choirs. Discover the rhythmic beauty and melodic charm of Philippine tunes, guided by Maria Theresa's expertise and passion for Filipino music. This workshop is designed to be inclusive, enriching, and, most importantly, a whole lot of fun. Join us and let the melodies of the Philippines resonate in a joyful harmony!



**Bunka Hall Rehearsal room**  
19:00 h

### **A Choral Journey through Kentaro Sato's Japanese Canons and Culture**

Immerse yourself in a captivating musical and cultural experience with composer Kentaro Sato's unique workshop. Come together to sing Sato's mesmerizing canons, crafted with a fusion of traditional Japanese influences and contemporary musical elements. As a renowned composer, Sato will guide participants through the intricacies of his compositions, offering insights into the rich culture of Japan that inspires his work.

Sato's expertise and passion for both music and culture create a unique atmosphere, fostering not only musical growth but also a profound appreciation for the cultural nuances embedded in each piece. This workshop promises to be a harmonious journey of discovery, where voices unite under the guidance of a masterful composer.

October 10-14, 2024



Kalamata, Greece

# 5<sup>TH</sup> KALAMATA INTERNATIONAL CHOIR COMPETITION AND FESTIVAL



## PRAY FROM KOBE CONCERT

SUNDAY, JANUARY 28, 2024

**Bunka Hall, Main Hall**  
14:00 h

The “Pray from Kobe Concert”, as it is called in Japan, was first held in 2012 in Kobe in order to sing and pray for the victims of the huge earthquake and tsunami around Fukushima on the east side of Japan in March 2011. Since then, hundreds of singers around Kobe attended the annual concerts that became a tradition to be held during the last weekend of January.

Tragic events like this are no news to the people living around Kobe, since in 1995 the city was also hit by a great earthquake, leaving behind many victims and destroying tens of thousands of buildings. However, what you see today is a city completely rebuilt, with only a few signs of the terrible event, a significant testimony of the power of life over natural disasters.

It is thus a very meaningful tradition the one that is about to evolve in Japan – from 2016, choirs from all over Japan will be getting to sing and pray not only for the victims of those natural disasters, but also for peace in the world. This is a festival that does not abide by a certain conviction, but it is rather religious at a much higher level! It is an invitation to sing and pray in the language of all religions, in the language of humanity! More than 600 singers will be gathering in Kobe and international choirs are also invited to sing for peace in the world in the beautiful Kobe Bunka Hall. It has never been so important for people to strive for peace in the world. Hardly a sentence applies here better than that of St. Augustine: “Those who sing, pray twice!”







For Pray from Kobe 3.11 concert in Japan

## Furusato

Lyrics: TAKANO, Tatsuyuki  
 Music: OKANO, Teiichi  
 Arm. Javier Busto (1949)

*mp*  $\text{♩} = 80$

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 U - sa - gi o - i - shi ka - no ya - ma

B  
 U - sa - gi o - i - shi ka - no ya - ma

5  
 ko - bu - na tsu - ri shi ka - no ka -  
 ko - bu - na tsu - ri shi ka - no ka -

8  
 wa yu - me wa i - ma mo me - gu - ri - te  
 wa yu - me wa i - ma mo me - gu - ri - te

13  
 wa - su - re - ga - ta - ki Fu - ru - sa - to  
 wa - su - re - ga - ta - ki Fu - ru - sa - to

17 *mp*  
 S  
 i - ka - ni i - ma - su Chi - chi Ha - ha tsu - tsu - ga  
 A  
 i - ka - ni i - ma - su Chi - chi Ha - ha \_\_\_\_\_ tsu - tsu - ga



22

na - shi ya to - mo - ga - ki a - me ni ka - ze ni  
na - shi ya to - mo - ga - ki a - me ni ka - ze ni

27

tsu - ke - te - mo o - mo - i i - zu - ru Fu - ru - sa - to  
tsu - ke - te - mo o - mo - i i - zu - ru Fu - ru - sa - to

33 *mp*

S Ko - ko - ro - za - shi wo ha - ta - shi - te i - tsu - no  
A *mp* Ko - ko - ro - za - shi wo ha - ta - shi - te i - tsu - no  
T *mp* Ko - ko - ro - za - shi wo ha - ta - shi - te i - tsu - no  
B *mp* Ko - ko - ro - za - shi wo ha - ta - shi - te — i - tsu - no

38

hi ni ka ka - e - ra - n ya - ma wa a - o - ki  
hi ni ka ka - e - ra - n ya - ma wa a - o - ki  
hi ni ka ka - e - ra - n ya - ma wa a - o - ki  
hi ni ka ka - e - ra - n ya - ma wa a - o - ki

43

Fu - ru - sa - to mi - zu wa ki - yo - ki Fu - ru - sa -

Fu - ru - sa - to mi - zu wa ki - yo - ki Fu - ru - sa -

Fu - ru - sa - to mi - zu wa ki - yo - ki Fu - ru - sa -

Fu - ru - sa - to mi - zu wa ki - yo - ki Fu - ru - sa -

48

*rit.* **Lento e Marcato**

to mi - zu wa ki - yo - ki Fu - ru - sa - to

to mi - zu wa ki - yo - ki Fu - ru - sa - to

to mi - zu wa ki - yo - ki Fu - ru - sa - to

to mi - zu wa ki - yo - ki Fu - ru - sa - to

Hondarribia, 21 - 01 - 2012  
ca: 2.00 min.

# SING FOR GOLD

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## COMPETITION PROGRAM



# COMPETITION PROGRAM

SATURDAY, JANUARY 27, 2024

**Bunka Hall, Medium Hall**

**14:00 h**

## Category M1 – Music of Spirit & Faith – Children´s and Youth Choirs

- 1            **SYUKUGAWA ANGEL CHOIR**  
Nishinomiya, Japan  
Conductor: Nezu Yoshiko
- Takatomi Nobunaga: Ichiban Hajime Wa
  - Ko Matsushita: Kotoba-asobi uta
  - Kentaro Sato: Kono Mi'chi, Hurusato-e

**Bunka Hall, Medium Hall**

**14:15 h**

## Category O1 – Open Repertoire – Children´s and Youth Choirs

- 1            **THE OLYMPIA CHOIR**  
Hanoi, Vietnam  
Conductor: Phuong Nguyen Mai
- Stephen Schwartz: When You Believe
  - Ly Le Cat Trong: 30 Con Chim (The 30 Birds)
  - Joel Little, Ella Yelich-O`Conner, arr. Roger Emerson: Royals
  - Joe Hisaishi: Kimi o nosete (Carrying You)
- 2            **SHENZHEN BAY SCHOOL CHOIR**  
Shenzhen, China  
Conductor: Huimin Jiang
- Wen Yuchuan: Pear Blossoms Bloom Again
  - Robert T. Gibson: Dance!
  - Trad. Sweden, arr. Kim Andre Arnesen: I denna ljuva sommartid
  - Lynn Shaw Bailey: Jazzy Jingle Bell Waltz
- 3            **BYEZOO CHOIR**  
Beijing, China  
Conductor: Yue Sun
- Akane Nakanishi: Rainbow
  - Xingzimin Pan: Qing Ping Yue (Village Life)
  - Samo Vovk: Ta na Solbici
  - Cheuk-Yin Ng: Before We Grow Up

**Bunka Hall, Medium Hall****15:15 h****Category O2 – Open Repertoire – Adult Choirs**

- 1 **PEKING UNIVERSITY ALUMNI CHOIR**  
Beijing, China  
Conductor: Shicheng Gu
  - Ēriks Ešvalds: Northern Lights
  - Chao Zhang: The Spring Is Coming
  - Zoltán Kodály: Turót észik a cigány
  - Thomas Morley, Yesog Sang: Now Is the Month of Maying
  
- 2 **PENGHU COUNTY GOVERNMENT CULTURAL BUREAU CHOIR**  
Penghu, Magong City, Chinese Taipei  
Conductor: Shan-Min Yu
  - John Leavitt: Festival Sanctus
  - Shui-Long Ma: Alamuhan
  - Jia Ching Lai: Rainy Night Flower
  - Nan-Chang Chien: I am Flying
  
- 3 **BYEZOO CHAMBER CHOIR**  
Beijing, China  
Conductor: Yue Sun
  - Anders Edenroth: Bumble Bee
  - Javier Busto, Matías Antón Mena: A tu lado
  - Wenjin Liu: Gan Sheng Ling
  - Kentaro Sato: Mae-e (Forward)
  
- 4 **CHOIR VIVO**  
Kobe, Japan  
Conductor: Yoshiyuki Ueda
  - Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina: Super flumina Babylonis
  - Elaine Hagenberg: Alleluia
  - Takatomi Nobunaga: Tomurai-no-ato-wa
  - Jaakko Mäntyjärvi: El Hambo

# COMPETITION PROGRAM

SATURDAY, JANUARY 27, 2024

Bunka Hall, Medium Hall

16:30 h

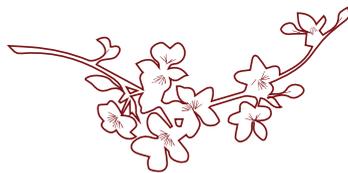
## Category M2 – Music of Spirit & Faith – Adult Choirs

- 1           **PARAMABIRA**  
 Jakarta, Indonesia  
 Conductor: Rainier Revireino
  - Tomoaki Yokoyama: Alleluia
  - Eric Whitacre: Hope, Faith, Life, Love ...
  - Ivo Antognini: Canticum novum
  - Bagus Satrio Utomo: Gayatri
  
- 2           **CANCAONOVA**  
 Hyogo, Tokyo, Japan  
 Conductor: Shimozono Taiki
  - Pérotin: Sederunt principes
  - Arvo Pärt: Solfeggio
  - Robert Schumann: Die Minnesänger
  - Richard Strauss: Fröhlich im Maien





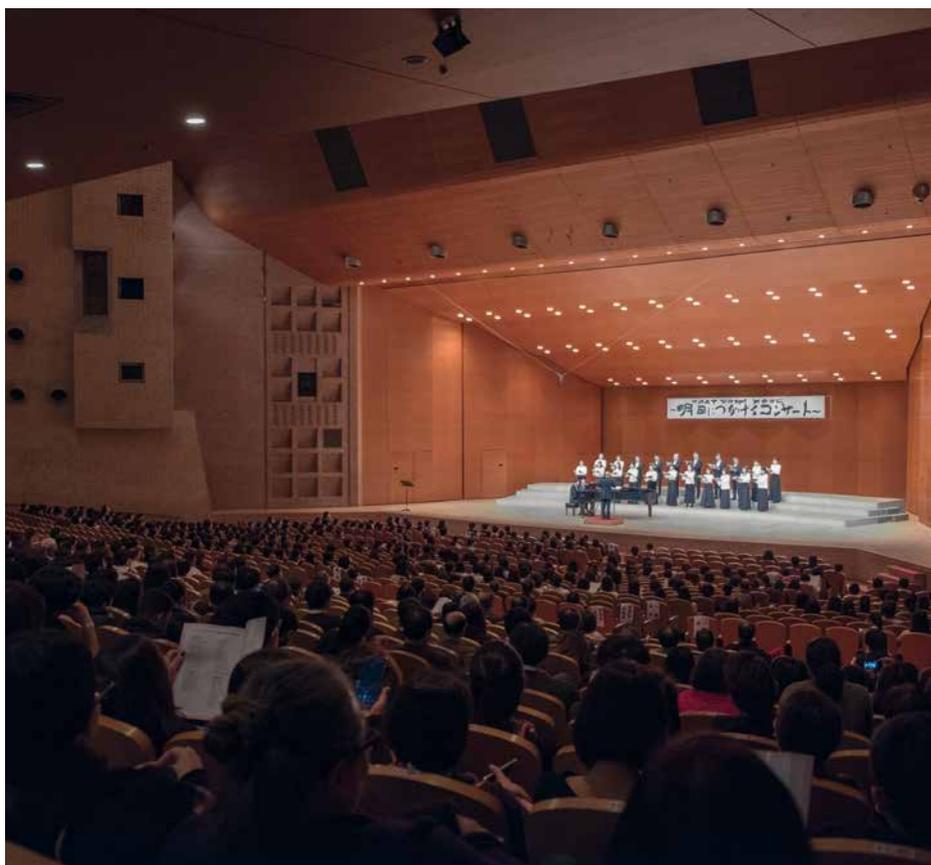
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**Address: 4-2-2 Kusunokicho, Chuo Ward, Kobe, Hyogo Prefecture 650-0017, Japan**







## PARTICIPATING CHOIRS





**BYEZOO CHAMBER CHOIR**  
Beijing, China

02

Founded: 2019

Conductor: Yue Sun



**BYEZOO CHOIR**  
Beijing, China

01

Founded: 2019

Conductor: Yue Sun



**PEKING UNIVERSITY ALUMNI CHOIR**  
Beijing, China

02

Founded: 2009

Conductor: Shicheng Gu



**SHENZHEN BAY PARENTS CHOIR**  
Shenzhen, Guangdong, China

FESTIVAL

Conductor: Qiaoyue Liu



**SHENZHEN BAY SCHOOL CHOIR**  
Shenzhen, China

01

Founded: 2017

Conductor: Huimin Jiang



**PENGHU COUNTY GOVERNMENT CULTURAL BUREAU CHOIR**  
Magong, Chinese Taipei

02

Founded: 1986

Conductor: Shan-Min Yu



**PARAMABIRA**  
Jakarta, Indonesia

M2

Founded: 1990

Conductor: Rainier Revireino



**CANCAONOVA**  
Tokyo, Japan

M2

Founded: 2016

Conductor: Shimozono Taiki



**CHOIR VIVO**  
Kobe, Japan

02

Founded: 2001

Conductor: Yoshiyuki Ueda



**SYUKUGAWA ANGEL CHOIR**  
Nishinomiya, Japan

M1

Founded: 2006

Conductor: Nezu Yoshiko



**SHIN SEONG ALUMNAE CHOIR**  
Jeju-Do, Republic of Korea

FESTIVAL

Founded: 2014

Conductor: Seung Gik Oh



**SAN FRANCISCO FOREST CHOIR**  
San Francisco, USA

FESTIVAL

Founded: 2003

Conductors: Miura Ruriko, Makiko Ueda, Masako Okada

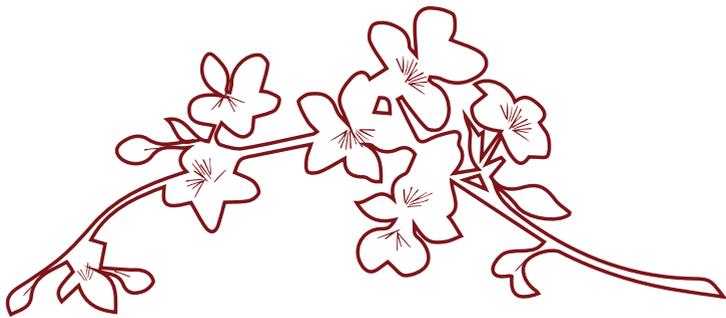


**THE OLYMPIA CHOIR**  
**Hanoi, Vietnam**

01

Founded: 2015

Conductor: Phuong Nguyen Mai



AARHUS DENMARK 2025



JUNE 28 - JULY 6, 2025



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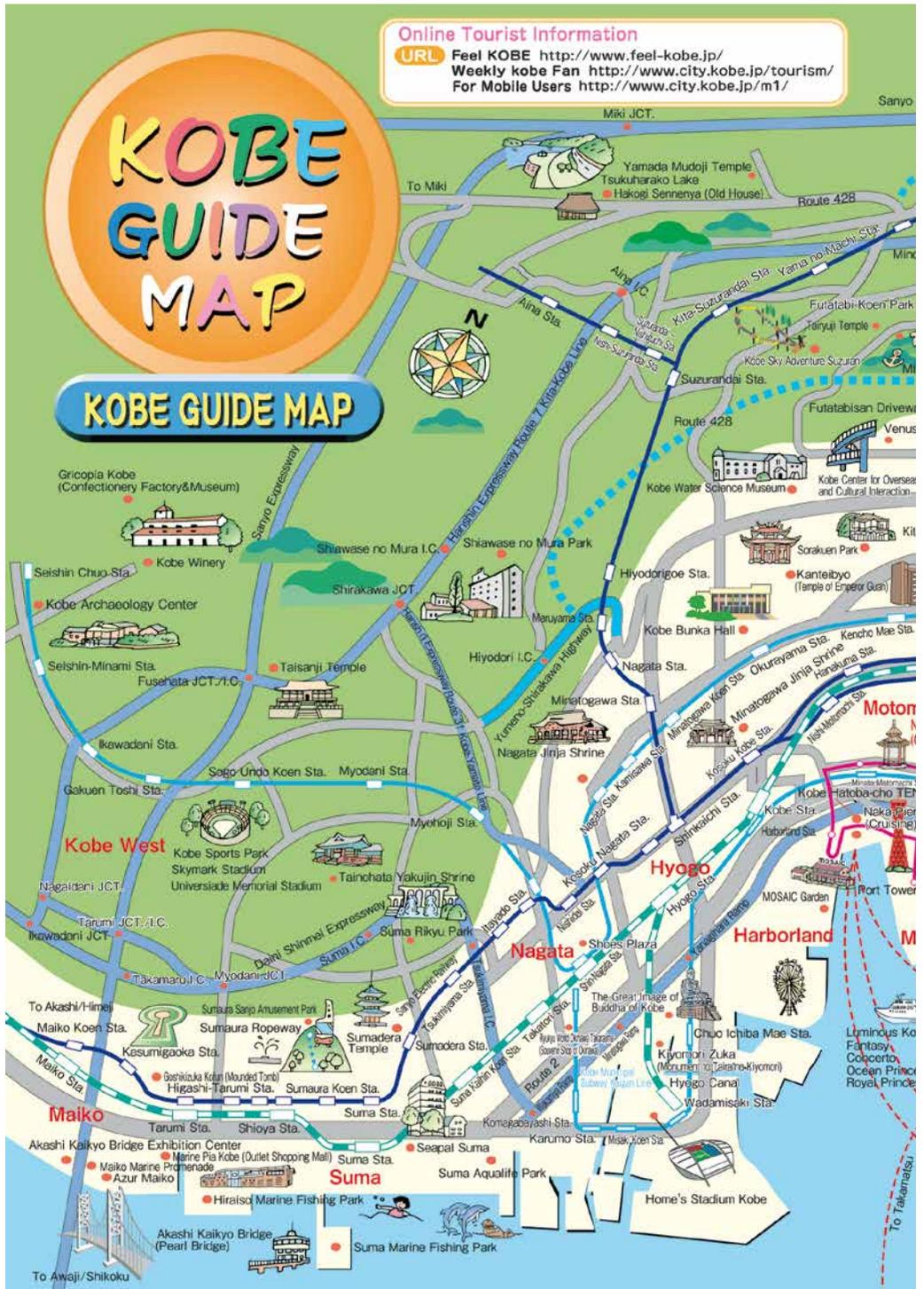


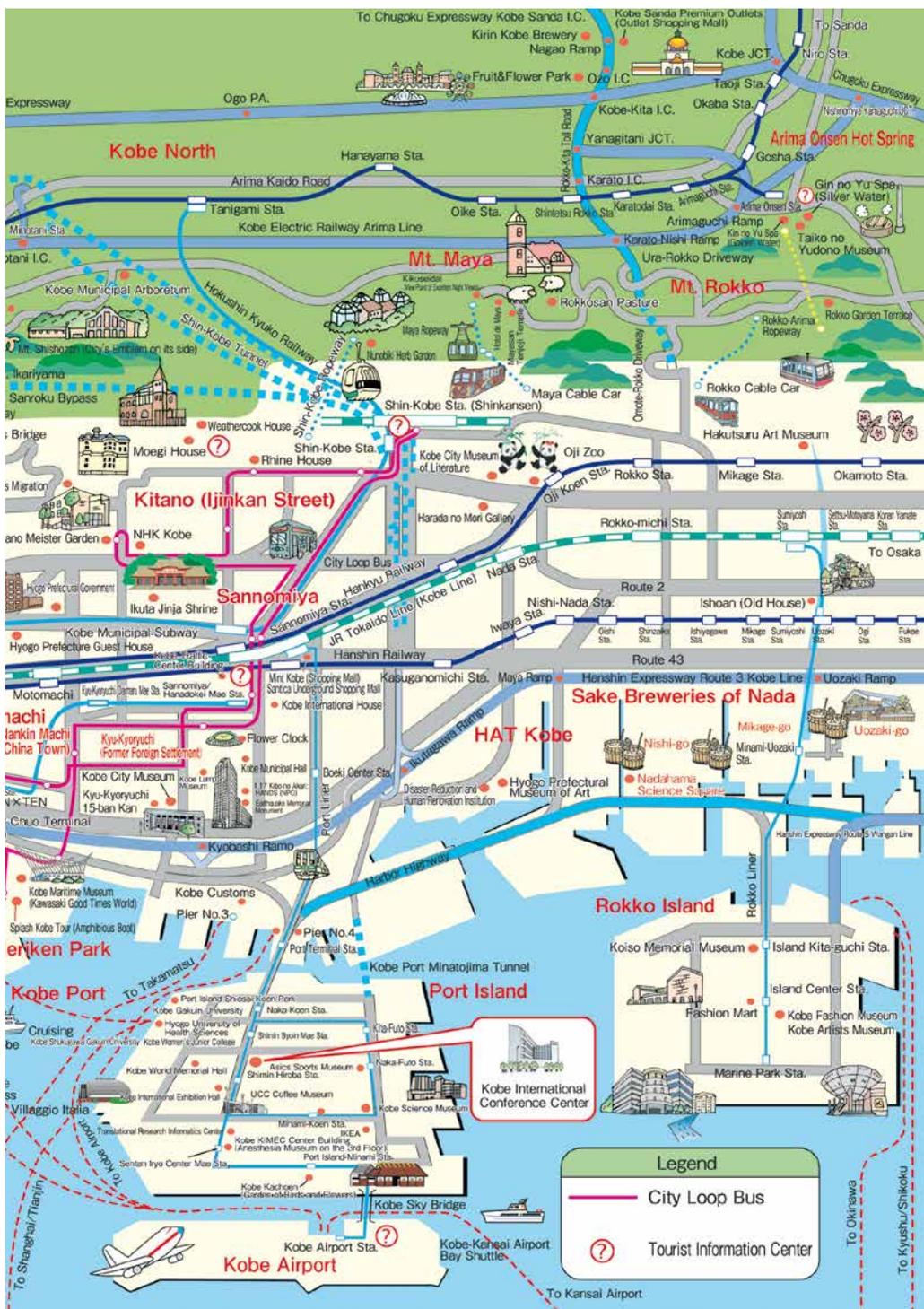
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# KOBE GUIDE MAP

## KOBE GUIDE MAP







## SING´N´PRAY KOBE

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