

HONOLULU 火奴鲁鲁	HA863	JL6415	T3	Cancelled 航班取消
BEIJING CAPITAL 北京首都	CA167		T3	Cancelled 航班取消
HONOLULU 火奴鲁鲁	NH185		T3	Cancelled 航班取消

## Asia-Pacific: Can I go?

# Finding your way through the Quarantine Jungle

5:35	15:49	CHICAGO O'HARE 芝加哥奥黑尔	JL9	AA8404	Baggage Available 正
5:55	15:37	DALLAS FORT WORTH 达拉斯	A175	JL7013	Baggage Available 正
7:00		DALIAN 大连			Cancelled 航班取消
7:00		HOUSTON 休斯顿			Cancelled 航班取消
7:05		SYDNEY 悉尼	JL52	LA7456	Cancelled 航班取消



From the very beginning of the pandemic, the borders of China have been virtually closed to foreigners. Returning Chinese are welcomed with a stringent quarantine regime. **Yeung-Ping Chen** of the Schoenfeld International String Competition reports.



**WFIMC:** Are there any foreign artists performing in China at the moment?

**Yeung-Ping Chen:** No, not since 2020...

**WFIMC:** Can one get a visa like before or is the process more restrictive now?

**Yeung-Ping Chen:** Not really, in the general situation, a visa application will not be approved for

a foreigner (unless someone who is originally a Chinese and have direct family member in China who is very ill...).

The ban of visa for foreigners is very strict, almost impossible for musicians to get a visa to China -- even artists like Yo-Yo Ma, Martha Argerich and Vienna Philharmonic...

**WFIMC:** Do you have to undergo a quarantine? If so, how long?

**Yeung-Ping Chen:** Well... talking quarantine is a little bit meaningless for the foreigners, as they can't even travel to China with a visa.. But for Chinese (such as the student who studied abroad) who return to China, they will need to undergo a quarantine. 14 days quarantine in a assigned hotel (the traveller pays him-/herself), and then 7 days home quarantine...; people from some countries (for example, India) with higher risk will have a even harsher requirement, such as 14+14, total 28 days.

**WFIMC:** Do you have to be vaccinated to enter, or to be exempt from quarantine?

**Yeung-Ping Chen:** No, vaccination will not help any traveller from being exempt from the quarantine.

**WFIMC:** Which vaccine/ which vaccine passports are accepted?

**Yeung-Ping Chen:** No vaccine passports are accepted. Vaccines that are recognized by the WHO will also be recognized by the Chinese Government (meaning being considered vaccinated properly, but that will not help to get a travel visa or to be exempt from the quarantine..)

**WFIMC:** Do you expect major changes in the near future?

**Yeung-Ping Chen:** For China, I think there will be some chances to have a gradual change after the Winter Olympic Games hosted in Beijing in 2022 (the end of February). But this is just an optimistic view.

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BEIJING CAPITAL 北京首都	CA167		T3	Cancelled 航班取消
HONOLULU 火奴魯魯	NH185		T3	Cancelled 航班取消

## Finding your way through the Quarantine Jungle II

5:35	15:49	CHICAGO O'HARE 芝加哥奥黑尔	JL9	AA8404	正	Baggage Available 正
5:55	15:37	DALLAS FORT WORTH	AA175	JL7013	正	Baggage Available 正
7:00		DALIAN 大连	JL		正	Cancelled 航班取消
7:00		HOUSTON 休斯敦			正	Cancelled 航班取消
7:05		SYDNEY 悉尼	LA52	LA7468	正	Cancelled 航班取消

When Japan closed its borders in early 2020, no one suspected it would last long. But over the past year and a half, little has changed, except that quarantine measures have become more stringent and rules have become much more complicated. Still, with vaccination rates growing and people becoming increasingly impatient, change is in the air. The government has indicated it will shorten quarantines and grant exceptions in the near future.



Regulations abound at Tokyo's Narita Airport

**WFIMC:** Are there any foreign artists performing in Japan at the moment?

**Wataru Ito:** There were no concerts performed by foreign artists in Japan except for a few special exceptions.

**WFIMC:** Can one get a visa like before or is the process more restrictive now?

**Wataru Ito:** There are serious restrictions on the issuance of visas in Japan. In principle, the issuance of new visas has been suspended.

**WFIMC:** Do you have to undergo a quarantine? If so, how long?

**Wataru Ito:** As mentioned in (2) above, entry into Japan is currently prohibited in principle. Japanese nationals and those with valid visas may enter Japan, but they are required to undergo quarantine for 14 days after entry.

**WFIMC:** Do you have to be vaccinated to enter, or to be exempt from quarantine?

**Wataru Ito:** PCR test is required for entry into Japan, regardless of vaccination status. Quarantine is not waived.

**WFIMC:** Which vaccine/ which vaccine passports are accepted?

**Wataru Ito:** It is reported that the Japanese government is currently discussing this issue. (The vaccine passport system, which is required for Japanese citizens to travel abroad, has already started.) It is expected that there will be an easing of entry measures to Japan using this passport in the near future.

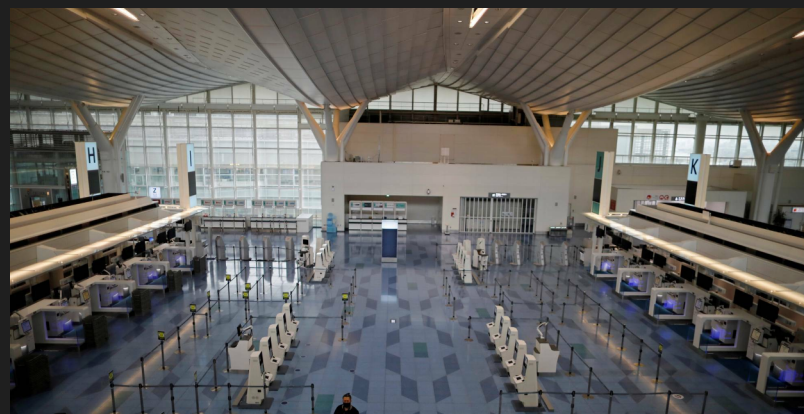
**WFIMC:** Do you expect major changes in the near future?

**Wataru Ito:** As mentioned above, there are severe restrictions on entry into Japan, but we think that these will be eliminated in stages.

The restrictions in place in Japan (gradual lockdown) will also be lifted.

According to reports, the restrictions will be eased as early as November.

Answers: Wataru Ito, The Hamamatsu International Piano Competition



## Finding your way through the Quarantine Jungle III

5:35	15:49	CHICAGO O'HARE 芝加哥奥黑尔	JL9	AA8404	Baggage Available 正
5:55	15:37	DALLAS FORT WORTH 达拉斯	AA177	JL7015	Baggage Available 正
7:00		DALIAN 大连			Cancelled 航班取消
7:00		HOUSTON 休斯顿			Cancelled 航班取消
7:05		SYDNEY 悉尼	LA52	LA7468	Cancelled 航班取消



**KOREA**

*Korea seemed to be on the forefront of countries fighting the virus. While the country imposed strict measures and a 14-day strictly enforced quarantine, life went on as normal for the most part, albeit with many concerts, festivals and competitions cancelled in 2020. This year, while the epidemic has not subseeded, numbers are still much lower than in comparable European countries. Vaccination rates need to increase, but the situation is improving and borders are beginning to ease restrictions.*



*Strict Quarantine begins right after arrival*

**WFIMC:** Are there any foreign artists performing in Japan at the moment?

**Jinyoung Kim:** There were always foreign artists in the country, but they had to undergo 14 days quarantine, in most cases at a government facility. That scared away many artists who were planning to perform here.

**WFIMC:** Can one get a visa like before or is the process more restrictive now?

**Jinyoung Kim:** Working visa are available for artists in most cases. Visa-free travel will also begin soon, but always with a quarantine at the beginning.

**WFIMC:** Do you have to undergo a quarantine? If so, how long?

**Jinyoung Kim:** Regular quarantine is 14 days, strictly monitored with a GPS app on your phone. Violators will be fined or deported at once. Koreans and Residents or Artists with long-term visa may spend the quarantine at a place of their liking, while all short-term visa holders must stay at a government-assigned hotel, with no outside contact, no outside food deliveries etc. If you are lucky, you will end up at a nice 4-star resort with balcony; in the worst case you can get a tiny hotel room without window.

**WFIMC:** Do you have to be vaccinated to enter, or to be exempt from quarantine?

**Jinyoung Kim:** If you have been vaccinated in Korea, you are exempt from quarantine after arrival, however several PCR-tests are mandatory. For people vaccinated abroad on a business trip, an exemption from the quarantine can only be granted by the relevant ministry. Until most recently, exemptions for performing artists were not given, but a number of prominent cases and some critical press coverage has changed that. There is no guarantee, but at the moment chances are good for artists to receive an exemption once vaccinated!

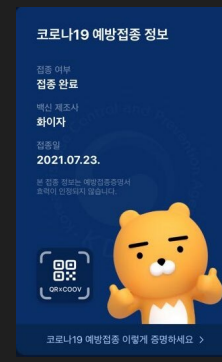
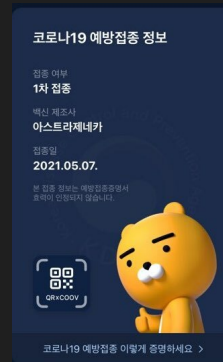
**WFIMC:** Which vaccine/ which vaccine passports are accepted?

**Jinyoung Kim:** all vaccines approved by the WHO in the applicants respective countries are accepted.

**WFIMC:** Do you expect major changes in the near future?

**Jinyoung Kim:** We expect the situation to improve further once the vaccination rate in Korea has reached a certain level.

*Answers: Jinyoung Kim, WFIMC Secretariat, Seoul, Korea*



*Fancy Korean Covid Passes- one jab (left) and two jabs (right)*

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## Finding your way through the Quarantine Jungle IV

5:35	15:49	CHICAGO O'HARE 芝加哥奥黑尔	JL9	AA8404	Baggage Available 正
5:55	15:37	DALLAS FORT WORTH 达拉斯	AA177	JL7013	Baggage Available 正
7:00		DALIAN 大连			Cancelled 航班取消
7:00		HOUSTON 休斯顿			Cancelled 航班取消
7:05		SYDNEY 悉尼	JL52	LA7468	Cancelled 航班取消

**HONG KONG**

**WFIMC:** Are there any foreign artists performing in Hong Kong at the moment?

**Dr. Anabella Levin-Freris:** In Hong Kong, few foreign artists who do not mind being in quarantine (some of them for 21 days!!!) are performing at the moment.

For example, for our Hong Kong Joy of Music Festival which we present every October in Hong Kong, this year we are going to present in a very special way. Since it is much more likely that artists will be able to move freely within European Countries than to be able to come to Hong Kong, (without quarantine), we are going to move our artists to Vienna from their countries of residence. Thanks to a partnership arrangement with MDW – University of Music and Performing Arts Vienna, we will be presenting 8 of the 10 concerts as part of the Festival, live in Vienna, at the said University. These 8 performances are going to be streamed Live, in real time and point to point, to the HK City Hall Concert Hall.

The concerts in Vienna will take place at 2:00pm so that in Hong Kong, it will be 8:00pm. There will be an audience in both places. The remaining two concerts will take place LIVE in Hong Kong, at the City Hall Concert Hall, since they will be performances by the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra, and all the musicians live in Hong Kong! And these two concerts will be streamed live, in real time, point to point to the University in Vienna. There will be an audience in both places.

We are bringing the conductor, Maestro Yves Abel, who will be in quarantine for 14 days to be able to perform (he is fully vaccinated). We were also going to bring a pianist to perform with the Orchestra, but since he is not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons, he has been banned from entering Hong Kong, because he will be flying from France- which is in the red list of countries from the COVID situation point of view. From the red list of countries, not vaccinated people are banned from entering HK, and the ones who are vaccinated have to quarantine for

21 days. From all other countries who are in the list B of countries, people who are not vaccinated have to be 21 days in quarantine, and vaccinated people have to quarantine for 14 days (the case of our conductor).

**WFIMC:** Can one get a visa like before or is the process more restrictive now?

**A. Freris:** No, artists cannot get working visas to perform unless they accept being in quarantine for either 21 days (vaccinated from countries in List A or unvaccinated from countries in List B, OR 14 days quarantine for vaccinated people from countries in List B.



empty departure hall at Hong Kong Intl. Airport

**WFIMC:** Do you have to be vaccinated to enter, or to be exempt from quarantine?

**A. Freris:** There are practically no exemptions from quarantine, and yes you have to be vaccinated to enter from countries in List A, since unvaccinated people from this group of countries are banned from entering Hong Kong. If you are unvaccinated from countries in List B, then you have to be in quarantine for 21 days, as mentioned before.

**WFIMC:** Do you expect major changes in the near future?

**A. Freris:** we do not expect major changes in the near future, since Hong Kong is adopting a zero tolerance policy in what has to do with the COVID pandemic. We have been having practically zero local cases in the last few months but, several of the people who fly in from different countries, even those who have been vaccinated in Hong Kong before their trip abroad, they test positive while in quarantine! The policy is to vaccinate as many people as possible.

Answers: Ar. Anabella Levin-Freris, Exec. Secretary, HK Intl. Piano Competition

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HONOLULU 火奴鲁鲁	ANA NH185		T3	Cancelled 航班取消

## Finding your way through the Quarantine Jungle V

5:35	15:49	CHICAGO O'HARE 芝加哥奥黑尔	JL9	AA8404	Baggage Available
5:55	15:37	DALLAS FORT WORTH 达拉斯沃斯	JL7015		Baggage Available
7:00		DALIAN 大连			Cancelled 航班取消
7:00		HOUSTON 休斯敦			Cancelled 航班取消
7:05		SYDNEY 悉尼	JL52	LA7468	Cancelled 航班取消

According to the latest Straits Times update, "The nation's Covid-19 vaccination rate has reached a new milestone, with 80 per cent of the population having received two doses of the vaccine as at Aug 28... This comes on the back of an announcement by Finance Minister Lawrence Wong on Aug 6 that one of the criteria for moving on to the second phase of the country's four-stage plan towards becoming Covid-19-resilient and reopening was an 80 % vaccination rate. Singapore is currently in the first stage, a preparatory phase which is expected to last until early September, during which some border restrictions are being eased. Singapore will then move into the second stage, known as "transition stage A", which would see further economic reopening. But this is premised on a high vaccination rate and stable overall situation, with no surges that threaten to overwhelm the healthcare system".

**WFIMC:** Are there any foreign artists performing in Singapore at the moment?

**Shuxiang Yang:** Referring to the Singapore Symphony Orchestra's concert calendar, we will be expecting Sayaka Shoji to perform in Singapore on 14/15 October, and Kam Ning to perform 21-28 October. Both artists are based overseas.

**WFIMC:** Can one get a visa like before or is the process more restrictive now?

**Shuxiang Yang:** Singapore enjoys bilateral visa waiver agreements with much of the world. However, due to the COVID situation, visitors are required to apply for Vaccinated Travel Passes or Air Travel Passes before entry. The requirements for these are rather restrictive at the moment, but as mentioned in the *Straits Times* article above, the Singapore government is looking to loosen these restrictions in the coming months.

**WFIMC:** Do you have to undergo a quarantine? If so, how long?

**Shuxiang Yang:** Visitors entering via the Vaccinated Travel Lane (VTL) or Air Travel Pass (ATP) programmes are required to undergo self-isolation till a negative on-arrival COVID-19 PCR result is notified. The results of the on-arrival COVID-19 PCR test will likely be available within 24 hours. Once visitors have been notified that they have tested negative for COVID-19, they can leave their declared accommodation and go about their activities in Singapore. Depending on the programme, visitors may be required to undergo post-arrival COVID-19 PCR tests on Day 3 and Day 7.

**WFIMC:** Do you have to be vaccinated to enter, or to be exempt from quarantine?

**Shuxiang Yang:** Visitors who qualify for ATP need not be vaccinated. The VTL programme, on the other hand, is premised on full vaccination.

**WFIMC:** Which vaccine/ which vaccine passports are accepted?

**Shuxiang Yang:** Singapore recognises vaccines on the WHO EUL list.

**WFIMC:** Do you expect any major changes in the near future?

**Shuxiang Yang:** As suggested in the *Straits Times* article above, the Singapore government is looking to expand its vaccinated travel programme in the coming months.

Shuxiang Yang is Project and Event Planning Manager at the Singapore Intl. Violin Competition.



deserted terminal at Changi Airport

HONOLULU 火奴鲁鲁	HA863	JL6415	T3	Cancelled 航班取消
BEIJING CAPITAL 北京首都	CA167		T3	Cancelled 航班取消
HONOLULU 火奴鲁鲁	NH185		T3	Cancelled 航班取消

## Finding your way through the Quarantine Jungle VI



The news in New Zealand is both frustrating and promising. Like Australia, our vaccine roll-out was delayed or slow because we were capturing covid at our borders so were enjoying covid-free life domestically and economically, and our governments didn't bully themselves forward to jump the queue for vaccine distributions.

A month ago my answers to you would have read much differently because we were commencing our vaccine roll-out and expectations were that by Christmas, we'd have reached herd immunity. There were trials in place for international travel with reduced quarantine – even at home. And then Delta hit. For 23 days we have been in full-scale lockdown aiming again for elimination. All but Auckland was moved to a midway restriction (masks, compulsory scanning and capacities at 50 indoors) yesterday. Our cases plateaued last weekend and are dropping rapidly (just 15 yesterday). Meanwhile, with our small population, about 80K are getting vaccinated each day which is 2% of the eligible population so it is conceivable we will have this protection in place by end of October which will change things dramatically.

I expect our government is looking closely to Singapore and Denmark and other countries that are further along this journey.

**WFIMC:** Are there any foreign artists performing in New Zealand at the moment?

**Anne Rodda:** In New Zealand, only NZ citizens/permanent residents are allowed spots in our government-controlled 14-day quarantine system, so they are the only ones permitted into the country.

**WFIMC:** Can you get a visa like before or is it more restrictive?

**Anne Rodda:** This will be a 2022 matter.

**WFIMC:** Do you have to undergo a quarantine? If so, how long?

**Anne Rodda:** MIQ is 14 days and there is far greater demand than supply. To get around hackers and bots, the government recently created an online 'waiting room' which randomly selected applicants. It is NZ\$3100 for the fortnight and one cannot book an airticket without a confirmed voucher. The government is rationing them for outbreaks like the current one and for economic incentives (major athletic or film events)

**WFIMC:** Do you have to be vaccinated to enter/ to be exempt from quarantine?

**Anne Rodda:** Too soon to know

**WFIMC:** Which vaccine/ which vaccine passports are accepted?

**Anne Rodda:** Too soon to know. NZ is 100% Pfizer.

**WFIMC:** Do you expect major changes in the near future?

**Anne Rodda:** I sure hope so!!!!

Anne Rodda is Executive Director of the Michael Hill international Violin Competition in Auckland.



Empty streets, empty airport in Auckland

HONOLULU 火奴鲁鲁	HA863	JL6415	T3	Cancelled 航班取消
BEIJING CAPITAL 北京首都	CA167		T3	Cancelled 航班取消
HONOLULU 火奴鲁鲁	NH185		T3	Cancelled 航班取消

## Finding your way through the Quarantine Jungle VII

5:35	15:49	CHICAGO O'HARE 芝加哥奥黑尔	JL9	AA8404	Baggage Available 正
5:55	15:37	DALLAS FORT WORTH 达拉斯沃斯堡	AA 175	JL 7013	Baggage Available 正
7:00		DALIAN 大连			Cancelled 航班取消
7:00		HOUSTON 休斯敦			Cancelled 航班取消
7:05		SYDNEY 悉尼	JL52	LA7468	Cancelled 航班取消

**AUSTRALIA**

**WFIMC:** Are there any foreign artists performing in Australia at the moment?

**Marcus Barker:** There are extremely few foreign artists undertaking performances in Australia. They are most likely to be Australian artists living abroad and who have come back to Australia for concerts eg Jayson Gillham, Piers Lane – already though many concerts for them have been cancelled due to lockdowns and restrictions on internal state travel. There is a high risk that internal state borders may be closed and would deny that artist permission to travel freely between states in Australia. In addition NSW and VIC are in lockdown and ALL performing venues are closed with no live performance happening anywhere. Some states like QLD, WA, SA, NT, TAS have bans on people living in NSW and VIC entering those states – there is no travel permitted at all. This impacts any touring possibility for foreign or for that matter, Australian artists.

**WFIMC:** Can you get a visa like before or is it more restrictive?

**Marcus Barker:** Yes it is possible to get a VISA, but there is a lot more paper work to complete and are extremely strict, to be able to get the approval and there is proof required of why they are coming to Australia and the benefit to Australia of why they are given permission to land. A recent example is 'celebrity' Katie Hopkins who was granted permission to enter the country for Celebrity Big Brother, but was deported for flouting hotel quarantine rules before she even stepped foot outside the hotel. Entry currently for non-Australians, over and above the weekly hotel capacities, is only being granted by NSW ie you have to land into Sydney. There is a maximum number of people allowed to land in Australia each week of 3000 – that it 3000 for the entire country per week, not per state!

**WFIMC:** Do you have to undergo a quarantine? If so, how long?

**Marcus Barker:** Everyone entering Australia must do a mandatory 2 week hotel quarantine period which is paid by the person in the hotel quarantine themselves, approximately \$3000 I think depending on which state you are quarantining in.

**WFIMC:** Do you have to be vaccinated to be exempt from quarantine?

**Marcus Barker:** There are NO exemptions for anyone regardless of their vaccination status or nationality. You MUST do the two week mandatory hotel quarantine.

**WFIMC:** Which vaccines/ which vaccine passports are accepted?

**Marcus Barker:** This is being debated by the Australian Government at the moment and no definitive list of accepted vaccines for entry to Australia in the future has been agreed. This is due in the coming months as the country nears its 80% vaccination targets to consider opening borders to the world again.

**WFIMC:** Do you expect major changes in the near future?

**Marcus Barker:** Minor changes – yes. Major changes – no. There is a hesitancy of some states that want to keep their cases of COVID at zero for as long as possible, even if that means they keep their borders closed to internal (and international) travel for Australians. We here in NSW are more likely to be able to travel 'freely' to the UK or the US well before we are likely to be able to cross the border to QLD or WA! It is complicated as state borders (opening and closing) are controlled by the states and not by the Federal government, and there is growing disagreement between state leaders from the previously agreed roadmap for opening Australia up to the world again. Those internal battles are going to be long fought without outcomes in the short term that will benefit anyone except for their own political objectives. It is expected that people in NSW and VIC who are moving to learning to live with the virus, rather than eliminating the virus, are slowly being granted freedoms as we emerge from our lockdowns which started at the end of June. Small things like being able to gather in a group of 5 outside the home but ONLY if you are double vaccinated. There is a press conference at 11am this morning from the NSW leader where it is anticipated that we may be able to go to the hairdressers, or go to the pub (sitting outside of course) from mid-October but ONLY if you are double vaccinated. It is highly unlikely that venues will open again with less than the 4 square meter rule applying which will make it financially difficult for the performing arts to get back up and running without huge losses still.

Marcus Barker is Chief Executive of the Sydney International Piano Competition.

