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## CELLO COMPETITION

# Strung Along



No one had any doubts as to who should be granted the First Award in the Second Witold Lutoslawski International Cello Competition which ended in Warsaw on Feb. 21. The performance of Danjulo Ishizaka, representing Germany, at the Concert of Laureates was absolutely fantastic.

For 30 young cellists from across the world the emotions of the concert will already have passed. Just three lucky winners were selected after the week-long event. However, right from the start the audience "put their money" on the sure front runner in the review of young cellists held for the second time in Warsaw. The 19-year-old Ishizaka delighted everyone with his perfect technique and his mature and unique musical personality. To everyone's satisfaction the panel of judges shared this delight and awarded Ishizaka the main

prize which amounted to \$5,000. Dominik Poloński, a student of the Music Academy of Łódź came second saving the hosts' honor. Korea's Noll Park won third place.

All three played at the Concert of Laureates held at the Music Academy in Warsaw.

Poloński's emotional performance of a Dvorak concerto and Noll's lyrical and subdued interpretation of Schumann were, however, both overshadowed by the winner. Ishizaka chose to play Witold Lutoslawski's Concerto for Cello and Orchestra, one of the most difficult cello compositions. However, the young musician managed to totally control this outstanding piece of 20th-century music and showed that he already is a world-class soloist. The orchestra of the Music Academy under Marcin Nałęcz-Niesiolowski, accompanying the soloist, also rose to the occasion and played with youthful verve. Although the concert did not end till after 11 p.m. the audience still mustered the energy to give the winner a standing ovation.

The next Lutoslawski Competition is to be held in Warsaw in two years' time.

Marcin Mierzejewski