



*W*e are aware that competitions are not the easiest of circumstances in which to perform one's best. In normal concert-giving the artist is subjected to far fewer pressures and stresses than in competitions. Unfortunately, competitions are nowadays the path to the concert platform. I salute the courage of the young artists who decided to take part in this competition. May they find all the calm and concentration that they need in order to present their talents at their best.

Any musical score invites a number of possible interpretations. The evaluation of those interpretations, even after excluding those obviously wrong or technically inadequate, will always be a difficult and controversial matter. May we, the members of the jury, have the insight to prize those interpretations which carry the mark of outstanding artistic individuality.

I am certain that a particular pleasure for us all will be listening to Witold Lutoslawski's works for cello. They represent a lasting monument to the creative power of this great composer and great man, his inner world and life philosophy; they also enchant by their beautiful sound and their extraordinary clarity of expression. I hope that even those of us who never met him, never experienced the kindness and help he so generously gave, will be brought nearer to him as a man and musician through the contemplation of his music. I wish the listeners an unforgettable artistic experience.

It is unfortunate that artistic competitions can inspire emotions more appropriate to sporting events. I trust nevertheless, that the artistic criteria will win the day on this occasion and the participation, passive as well as active, will enrich us all.

*James Lichell*

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