



Dear Participants,

On behalf of the Organizing Committee, I, for the third time, have the honor and pleasure to welcome you to the Witold Lutosławski International Cello Competition in Warsaw. We have founded this contest primarily for you, but also for ourselves – to have the privilege to host you in Warsaw and take pleasure in your successes.

I am delighted to inform you that, effective as of the year 2000, we are a member of the World Federation of Music Competitions in Geneva, and of the European Union of Music Competitions for Youth in Munchen. Our membership in these organizations does not alter our program nor the character or goals of our Competition, but it will serve well you and your fellow musicians, the participants of the International Witold Lutosławski Cello Competition, through increased exposure and worldwide information about the laureates. We have founded this competition not to categorize you, but to give you an extra opportunity to present your skills and virtues in public, and to meet with your peers sharing your experience and comparing your accomplishments. We are aware that this event is only one of the episodes on the road to your artistic career. How much will the Lutosławski Competition be important in your further life depends only on you.

The Jury of the International Witold Lutosławski Cello Competition includes seven renowned cellists from five countries. Their position is no easier than yours is. The Jury gathered here not to judge you, but to help you. They have to abide by the rules set for this "meeting of young cellists"; they will have to assess your talents with a very simplified tool – bare numbers that they will put into the grid of the evaluation chart. They know that this method is not a perfect one to measure the art of music. Their evaluation is to help you, so take a full advantage of this opportunity. Be also assured that, independently of their grades, each of the Jurors is friendly to you: all of them are in deep love with cello and cellists. Don't forget: you all belong to the same Family!

The existence of each competition is conditioned by several factors, the most important of them are you – the contestants: it is your show and it couldn't exist without you. The second key factor is the presence of a Jury. We are very grateful to those outstanding artists who accepted our invitation to serve as jurors; they did it without hesitation. Our gathering of cellists couldn't also be possible without help from our sponsors. We would like to express our gratitude particularly to those that, from the founding of the Competition in 1996, provided us with financial support. They are the Ministry of Culture, the patronage of which gives us the status of a recognized artistic event in Poland, and the Councils of Warsaw (Gmina Warszawa-Centrum and Biuro Zarządu Miasta St. Warszawy), through which our Competition could become an important cultural event in the city. We extend also our thanks to only few other organizations but many individuals who, through their support, contributed to the founding and helped in organizing subsequent editions of the International Witold Lutosławski Cello Competition.

Bogdan Palosz

Warsaw, February 2001