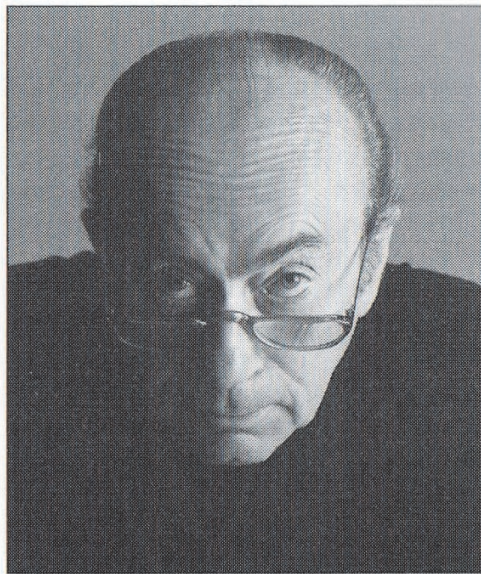


**T**he world accords Polish music the highest mark of quality, recognition and respect, thanks to our great composers, eminent conductors and internationally recognized performers. Because of Chopin, Poland was once thought of as a land of pianists. In recent years many excellent



young cellists have appeared on the scene. We are fortunate in having many excellent cello teachers, with prof. Kazimierz Michalik, who has already educated many virtuosos, at the forefront, now we also have an exceptional generation of young, intelligent and talented musicians.

We all know how important competitions are for starting the careers of young artists. The International Witold Lutoslawski Cello Competition, with Mstislav Rostropovich as its honorary president of the jury, is an event whose importance cannot be overestimated.

In my capacity as the president of the Witold Lutoslawski Society and in the name of all its members I extend the approbation and the symbolic patronage of the Society over this competition bearing the name of our patron, and wish all participants success and joy. The competition enjoys growing popularity, which is evidence of the excellence of Polish cello teachers, as well as the abundance of talented young artists.

The International Witold Lutoslawski Cello Competition in Warsaw has been accepted as a member of the World Federation of International Music Competitions, one of only four in Poland. This obliges us all even more.

*Jan Krenz*

Warsaw, February 2001