



*I am delighted to see that a number of young but already outstanding cellists have recently emerged in Poland. That must have happened due to several factors: excellent music professors, improved opportunities for music studies, and an increased interest in the beautiful sound of the cello. The obvious consequences of the above, and an important element of our cultural activities is the current, fourth edition of the Witold Lutosławski International Cello Competition. The Competition is a great chance for young cellists to compare their skills to those of others, particularly their international colleagues. Despite various opportunities that exist today, young musicians live in a challenging environment where to be recognized and attract the attention of the public and music professionals is more difficult than ever. In that respect the role of the Competition, having world-renowned jury members under a honorary chairmanship of the most famous cellist alive, Mstislav Rostropovitch, can hardly be underestimated.*

*The Competition has its own, specific profile - a significant part of the program is dedicated to Polish contemporary music, and the selection of Witold Lutosławski as its symbolic patron will help to make the name and heritage of this world-renowned composer known even better. The Warsaw Philharmonic is very pleased to have the opportunity to host and co-organize this event. Its significance and role in the international music community is already considerable and, I am convinced, it will keep growing in the years to come.*

*Antoni Wit*

Warsaw, February 2003