



Dear Contestants,

Congratulations for your decision to participate in the Vth Witold Lutosławski International Cello Competition in Warsaw; it is not an easy contest, it is not only a challenge.

Dedicating the Competition to Witold Lutosławski obliges all of us, the Organizers, Jurors, and the Performers alike, to show extreme care in fulfilling our artistic obligations. The role of the Organizers is to provide you with the best conditions for performing; how well we did it, you'll be the judge.

The Jurors are from among the most renowned cellists today. They agreed to meet in Warsaw because they want to get familiar with you and your Art of Music. They will have to evaluate your performance - that's their role - but you can rest assured that in every moment they are very supportive and would like to give each of you the highest notes possible. Do everything to help them in that. How to do it?

Each of you, the Performers, is an individual who develops according to your personal life, experience, and the world around you. You are not opponents - each of you is unique and we want to get familiar with each of you. By applying to the Competition you proved that you mastered the difficult technique of playing cello. However, the basis of evaluation of your performance will not be just your playing skills or the precision of playing the notes of the score. The primary factor in evaluating your performance will be what message you send to us, the listeners. We want to learn about you; the notes we can read ourselves and we are well familiar with all the compositions that you'll be playing. Here's a challenge for you: convince us, that you are not presenting one more, however perfect copy of the composition, but that you yourself are the unique creator of the interpretation of the Music. It is not the composer that is to address us, it is You!

If you are still in doubt, if you are still searching for your own place in the World of Music, it may be helpful for you to get familiar with one of the principles of Witold Lutosławski: *"Again and again: music does not express any feelings, it is only a frame filled with emotions of the performer, emotions that he/she is capable of."* (D. Gwizdalanka and K. Meyer, *"Lutosławski. Droga do dojrzałości"/"Lutosławski. The road to maturity"*, PWM, Warszawa 2003, s.94).

We, the listeners, will not evaluate the frame provided by the composer, we will be listening to your emotions. We anticipate a lot and we are confident that we'll not be disappointed.

*Bogdan Pałoz*

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