



...*"Talent is not a sole possession of the endowed person. It is surely a gift, a privilege but responsibility comes with it."*

*Witold Lutoslawski*

One of the most important tasks challenging the organizers of a musical competition is to create an environment which will help the participants performing at the auditions to overcome personal stress haunting even the most resistant personalities and undermining their motivation necessary for an artistic performance of the competition program. Being aware of that factor we will, as always, do our best to create an equally favourable atmosphere for all the competitors.

We deeply understand the challenges facing everyone who decided to participate in the event. This is a challenge indeed. It requires proving for oneself, and to the public and last but not least the jurors, that one's participation in the event is well justified, that one can face the audience and, in an artistically convincing manner and full concentration, perform the demanding music program. It requires conveying the essence of the composition, outlining one's personal artistic interpretation of the music reaching deeply into the substance of the music, and to do it in such a way as to win the minds and souls of the listeners and jurors.

You need to have in mind that you will compete against your peers, and each of them wants to do his or her best. You need to be prepared mentally for this kind of competition. Long years of studying, following the directions of your professors, many exams and performances in the school and probably in concert halls as well, make you prepared for meeting the real world in your chosen profession of a music artist and performer.

There is a peculiar feature in artistic activity. We don't compete against each other trying to jump a few centimeters higher or run a few tenths of a second faster. The essence of our profession lies in the uniqueness, individuality, autonomy of imagination and method, and the more convincing we are the more distinct our stage appearance is. Certainly, every artist is supported by his or her talent which may help to shorten the way to the goal we set. However, talent itself is not enough. The abilities we have must serve the purpose we devote ourselves to. The deeper, wiser and broader we absorb ourselves into the essence of the music to be played, the more personal our interpretation will be.

I am writing these words to help you realize that, as competitors, you are not facing each other; you are challenging the music and your own selves. You may not be compared to each other, because each one of you is different and unique. With that I want to stress out that you are all artists. Any distinguishing choice is based on showing a greater personality and how deep it remains in the minds of the listeners. Certainly, this aspect is often a subject of criticism as not being 'objective'. Despite of this specific feature of music competitions they are one of the best forms of help for all those who show talent, a passion for music, and who are ready to fulfill their artistic vocation.

In the name of all Jurors and myself I wish all the Participants of the Competition many outstanding artistic achievements in this event and in your future artistic careers.

*Kazimierz Kord*  
*Jury Chairman*

Warsaw, February 2007