



Dear Young Artists,

We are just starting the VIII edition of the Witold Lutoslawski Cello Competition. It brought the highest number of candidates as well as the number of countries they represent in the history of the Competition. Apparently the Competition gains in popularity and recognition, and becomes for young musicians one of the important venues to international career. It is in particular encouraging that you, young artists, link their names with that of the great Master - Witold Lutoslawski.

Each of you taking part in the Competition wishes to face the professional accomplishments of its patron. When you include compositions of the Master to your repertoire you become the ambassadors of this extraordinary music, which is a great joy for me personally. I had the privilege, not once, to perform and record His compositions.

The Competition is also your opportunity to get in touch with cello music of other great composers, and gives you an opportunity to include in your repertoire everlasting compositions of the past masters, like those of Haydn and Schumann. I am glad that also this year the National Philharmonic Orchestra will assist the finalists of the Competition, and that its winner will be awarded with playing a concert on the stage of the Philharmonia.

The Competition will take place in the week preceding the XIV Lutoslawski Forum, a specific festival of contemporary music, created with the inspiration of the Composer, and dedicated later in His Name. Compositions of seventeen composers, from Maurice Ravel to Pawel Mykietin, will be in the program. You are cordially invited to this event.

I wish all of you, young artists, to keep your passion for music to stay with you forever, no matter what your final placing in this Competition should be. I believe that you will back on the stage of the Philharmonia, more than once, as well recognized, established musicians performing in great concert halls all over the world. I wish all of you inspiring interpretations of music at the Competition's rehearsals.

Warsaw, January 2011

*Antoni Wit
The Managing and Artistic Director
of Warsaw Philharmonic*

Warsaw, February 2011