



Dear Participants,

For the tenth time I welcome you all to the Witold Lutoslawski International Cello Competition. When we set up the Competition we had a clear goal: to give You an opportunity to present us your Art and your talent. You all have talent; otherwise You would not be here.

You all belong to one family connected not only through music but by your favourite instrument. At the same time you are all very different: you are of different ages, ranging from 17 to 24, you come from 20 different countries with various cultural and musical traditions, you attend miscellaneous schools and have very different professors. Each one of you is at a different stage in your own personal artistic career. Each one of you wants to be noticed and to be honoured.

This Competition won't solve any problem you encounter in your lives, won't determine your future, but also won't have a detrimental effect on you, regardless of the ranking you get. We started this Competition for you to meet your colleagues, with whom you share a love for cello music. To get to know each other, to try and understand each other and to communicate - because really, you all have so much in common! Exchange your thoughts, reflections and worries. Talk to each other, quarrel with each other but also support each other.

Competition forces the formulaic evaluation of your performances by the assigning of points and therefore the ranking of participants. It is natural that you all wish to win. But if you are not at the top of the laureate list, this does not mean that someone took your place away. This person may not take a top place in another competition, or tomorrow the order of participants may change. Not being at the top does not take away your own perfectness and even if you are all perfect there is only one first place in this competition. If this Competition makes you realise you are not perfect - hopefully this will make you more motivated to work harder. You have already achieved so much. You have capital which has been accumulated through many years of education, it depends on you what you wish to achieve and where you wish to eventually get to. Even if you win this time, this does not mean you will always win and even if you do not win - you always have a chance to win it all.

There has to be a Jury in a competition. They are your older colleagues' from the same Family of Cellists. At one time they were in your place and they fully understand you and they are not here to criticise and assess, but to listen and - if you wish - to share their experiences and support you in finding your own artistic career route.

I wish to you all the greatest determination in achieving your goal and let this encounter be an inspiration to you in your future artistic path.