



**W**elcome to Warsaw.  
*This is the third International Cello Competition in Warsaw, the second bearing the name of Witold Lutoslawski. I am delighted to welcome so many talented and ambitious young artists at the threshold of their artistic careers.*

*I trust that our competition platform will not become an arena for musical gymnastics and rivalry but a forum for the presentation of music in all its richness, beauty and variety. We have stipulated that participants should perform works from the past, which are always a touchstone of the artistic maturity of a performance, and also works from our own times, among which the music of the great composer and patron of this competition, Witold Lutoslawski, shines particularly brightly. We expect young performers to have a special affinity with the works of their contemporaries.*

*I am confident that these young performers are conversant with all the intricacies of the instrument they play, including its richness and newly extended vocabulary of sonorities, but the real value of their performances will lie in the desire and ability to make virtuosity subservient to the expression of the composers' intentions. Any musical work lends itself to many interpretations; these will be magnified by the different sensibilities, artistic temperaments and national traditions of the participants. We look forward to many fascinating performances in the course of the competition. Since many works are performed repeatedly in the course of a musical competition, it is also becomes a festival of musical interpretation which, I trust, will be enjoyed equally by both participants and audience alike.*

*It is perhaps an unfortunate fact of contemporary artistic life that for aspiring musicians the path to the concert platform leads through competitions. May the additional stress suffered in the course of this competition be rewarded with the prizes in the form of numerous future concert engagements so generously offered by many Polish musical organisations.*

*Kazimierz Michalik*

Warsaw, February 2001