



Ladies and Gentlemen,

The IX Witold Lutosławski International Cello Competition is one of the most important cultural events of the year, which has been established as the Year of Lutosławski by the passing of a law into our Parliament. That law makes this year's 100th anniversary of the birth of the composer of the "Cello Concerto" particularly special, which is made even more so by corresponding support from UNESCO, all in all making this year's edition of the Competition particularly extraordinary.

At the heart of the event, which is beating strong and vigorous, are it's primarily participants - young cellists from around the world. It is splendid indeed that right here, in Warsaw, during those few days, will take place a noble, but at the same time full of youthful spirit, artistic competition under the symbolic patronage of Witold Lutosławski. Eight editions of the Witold Lutosławski International Cello Competition have already proved, that it is worth the effort to come here, face and compete with other young cellists, and then move on and shine on other concert stages of the world.

I wish all the participants the top laurels, the Jurors just judgments and decisions, and the public great emotions and moving moments. I hope that all, once again, will leave the Competition taking with themselves good memories about Polish music and Poland.

*Andrzej Kosowski
Institute of Music and Dance, Director*

Warsaw, February 2013