



*Dear Young Artists,*

*This year's 9th Witold Lutosławski Cello Competition takes place at a very special time, in the year of its Patron's birth centenary, which the Polish Parliament has officially declared Witold Lutosławski Year. In that year, Warsaw Philharmonic will present numerous concerts dedicated to the Great Master, featuring eminent artists of international stature.*

*Lutosławski's music is certainly not easy and it places high demands on the performers. Seemingly inaccessible, on closer acquaintance it reveals an immense wealth of original ideas. The many opportunities I have had to come in contact with Lutosławski's music, whether recorded or performed live in concert, have always filled me with great joy. I also frequently had the honour to benefit from the Master's knowledge and experience when I met him in person.*

*The concert audience eagerly looks forward to hearing your interpretations of the Master's works and of the canon of cello literature. I do believe that your youth and energy will bring fresh air into that music.*

*I wish you many unique artistic creations and inspiring competition with your colleagues from so many different countries. Not everyone will become a winner, but I hope all of you will return to the Philharmonic stage and appear on other major concert stages of the world.*

*Traditionally, the majority of the auditions will be held in Warsaw Philharmonic Hall, and the finalists will be accompanied by our Symphony Orchestra (whose soloists include some of your predecessors, the winners of the Lutosławski Cello Competition from previous years). It is the last year in which I will greet the participants of the Competition as the host and director of Warsaw Philharmonic, the Competition's co-organiser. I would therefore like to take this opportunity to congratulate warmly the organisers of the Competition from all the previous years, and to wish that this event should prove equally successful in the future.*

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

Warsaw, February 2013