



Dear Participants,

*Welcome to the 9th Witold Lutosławski
International Cello Competition.*

Every two years, before another upcoming edition of the Competition, I ask myself a question: „Who needs the Competition?” Since you are coming here from several continents, it is justified to assume that you need it indeed. I try to figure out what do you expect from it, why did you chose Lutosławski Competition, and what your hopes are.

No doubt you have various expectations, and I try to understand what they are, so that our Competition will give you the least of disappointments and the most of satisfaction. Should I assume that every and each of you comes here to win, I would have to assume that the dominant result of this event will be a disappointment for all of you except for the few who made it to the Finals. Had I assumed that you come here with the only goal of winning, I wouldn't have accepted the challenge of organizing the Competition. Each of you studied music for more than ten years now, so you know already that, in the audience, there are always those for whom your music is the best and most important, and you perform primarily for them. In the world of music there is a place for each and all of you. No competition can change that. In music, there is no losers and winners. I assume, that that's the believe of each of you.

The Jurors will be listeners too. They were participants in competitions themselves. You came to the Competition out of your own will, and likewise the Jurors decided to dedicate their time for you out of their own choosing. They will be your dedicated listeners. They would gladly award you the highest grades. However, they are bound by the Competition's rules which obliges them to select from among you the finalists, and then to select the awardees. Whatever the outcome of this event, it will not be an opening or closing of the artistic career of any of you. And, no doubt, it will not take your listeners away. So, enjoy your time here, do your best, and be happy with your beloved cello.

*Bogdan Palosz
Competition Director*

Warsaw, February 2013