



*Ladies and Gentlemen,*

*Music competitions on a master level provide both a joyful and festive encounter with music; but this is mainly for the unengaged listener not so much for the competitors for whom stress and tension stand in the way of pure musical and creative pleasure, nevertheless this is where the decisive disciplines of contact with a conscious and sensitive audience, drawing satisfaction from performing and finally an objective assessment of the artistic effect and the selection of future virtuosi takes place.*

*Who cannot for a moment give oneself fully to the creation of music, should look for success elsewhere - music is an art for the few for whom the mysterious world of sound is a natural environment. It is precisely this type of musician who attends music competitions.*

*This applies especially to the Lutosławski Cello Competition because of the unrivaled charm of the cellos sound. It is less important whether one's performance will be rewarded or not. These young people, who will still mature over the coming years, have in general made their life decisions to become and remain musicians. Although not everyone will enjoy material success, and only a few will experience the delights and pains of fame, all will feel the moments of creative exultation available only to the few, moments that will be sought after and will not be replaceable. Such fortune - enviable in its own right, because music is a type of mystery for the initiated prepared for the collective purifying experience of beauty. It has no relevance to the size or prestige of the concert hall, the size of the fee, neither with age, nor the curriculum of the performer. An artist's only desire and fate is art and only exceptional circumstances may change this. Let us commence another music celebration because Warsaw is hosting a newly emerging group of young people who have chosen music as their goal. All of them have already won because they are following a path where human genius is found - Haydn, Beethoven, Boccherini and Lutosławski - and live with them daily. We the listeners remain in hope that with their artistic skills and talents they will find the key to the door of an ideal world of art and once opened will show the way and let them follow.*

*Grzegorz Michalski*

*Chairman of the Witold Lutosławski Society*

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