



Dear Participants,

It is indeed a great honour for me to be the chairman of the jury for this prestigious Witold Lutosławski International Cello Competition which has been making an invaluable contribution to the cello world, particularly for gifted young cellists. Because of that I do feel an enormous responsibility which is shared by my distinguished colleagues. We cannot forget the great endeavour, admirable enthusiasm, and profound dedication shown by one of the founders of the competition, Professor Kazimierz Michalik. This particular competition emphasizes the artistry of Witold Lutosławski and his compositions which occupy a very significant and important part of the cello repertoire. We should not forget his words: "Talent is not a sole possession of the endowed person. It is surely a gift, a privilege but responsibility comes with it."

I am convinced that the main reason to enter into a competition is to test oneself as to how far one can reach both as a cellist and a musician, which automatically should include his/her profound understanding and the best possible execution of, the compositions of Witold Lutosławski. And by making a hard and concentrated effort to achieve one's best in every composition and by challenging oneself to his/her limit it enables that person achieve his/her utmost which has never been possible before. It will place that player on a higher plateau as an artist. It also helps to expand one's repertoire considerably and to prepare oneself for a career in performing. A competition is also a wonderful chance for us, as jury members to discover great talents and enjoy their playing. At the same time it is an invaluable opportunity for young aspiring musicians to be heard by a distinguished body of jury members as it will eventually help their career in the future.

Maestro Kazimierz Kord who was the chairman of the jury in previous competitions had the following to say: "You do not compete against each other by trying to jump a few centimeters higher or run a few tenths of a second faster. The essence of our profession lies in the uniqueness, individuality, independency of imagination and method, and the more convincing we are the more distinct our stage presence will be. Certainly, every artist is empowered by his/her talent which may help to expedite the way to the goals we set. However, talent itself is not enough. The abilities we have must serve the purpose we devote ourselves to. The deeper, wiser and broader we absorb ourselves into the essence of the music to be played, the more personal our interpretation will be." To me these words are so true and profound, and explain fully that which is the foundation of music making and raison d'être of a music competition.

We, the jury members, shall try our best to be fair, objective and honest. It is surely a hard task. But the participants who are already winners in a sense having been chosen to present themselves at this competition, really deserve the very best judgement and encouragement. We wish you all the best of luck.

*Tsuyoshi Tsutsumi
Jury Chairman*

Warsaw, February 2013