



Dear Young Artists,

A week of tremendous effort and emotions is ahead for you. I am very glad that our Competition already for the 7th time attracts a lively interest among the international community of young musicians. It is the more pleasing to us since the Competition is dedicated to the work of one of the most outstanding composers of the 20th century, who is for us also our Great Compatriot. I am also very pleased that for the first time the finalists of the Lutosławski competition will perform with the Warsaw Philharmonic Orchestra. In this way we wish to emphasize

the ever strengthening ties of the Competition with our institution. This relation is also reflected in the Philharmonic's award for the First Prize winner – a concert with the Warsaw Philharmonic Orchestra in our Concert Hall.

I am looking forward to your interpretations of the works of Witold Lutosławski. I am confident that they will be full of youthful fervor and fresh ideas. What will His music mean to you? The Competition has made it familiar to you, and I believe that it will now become a staple of your repertoires.

As the Competition starts, in Warsaw Philharmonic the 13th Lutosławski Forum is drawing to a close. This festival of contemporary music was inspired by the Maestro and is dedicated to His memory. It is an excellent opportunity to compare his achievements with those of His great predecessors as well as the works of His contemporaries and successors.

Lutosławski composed many of His works for the cello. On several occasions, he composed with the legend of that instrument, Mstislav Rostropovich, in mind. That great master of the cello eagerly promoted young artists like you. He was the patron of our Competition in the previous years, and now the memory of this Great Artist will accompany us throughout the Competition. Let his passion and striving for excellence in interpretation, which I had a privilege to witness very closely myself, become your goal, too.

My wish for all of you is that this Competition should become an important step in your professional careers. I believe that in the future I will have the pleasure to meet many of you on the stage of Warsaw Philharmonic.

*Antoni Wit
General and Artistic Director
of Warsaw Philharmonic*

Warsaw, February 2009