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**Message from the Chairman of the European Chamber Music Teachers' Association on the occasion of the ceremonies in honor of Anna Prabucka-Firlej
Saturday 7 May 2011**

One of the greatest pleasures of my work as Chairman of the ECMTA has been to get to know and to work with some of the most remarkable, devoted, and gifted artist-teachers in the world. Since I became Chairman of the ECMTA at the same meeting where Professor Prabucka-Firlej was elected to the Board, we had the privilege and pleasure to be able to collaborate in the organization of our first ECMTA general meeting together, just a few months later, in Gdansk. Work on that meeting began even before we had had the chance to meet personally, but the ease and assurance with which everything fell into place left no room for doubt about the quality and excellence of the result. And so it was! When we finally met, the impression I had from our written exchange of her depth of insight, clarity of vision, and simple, human warmth were all confirmed. In Gdansk, our ECMTA colleagues were welcomed in what we learned was Professor Prabucka-Firlej's characteristic style: attention to detail, unrestrained generosity, kindness, exquisite intelligence and musicality, and the truest spirit of collegial respect and friendship. It was equally obvious to all that the exceptionally joyous, receptive, and generous atmosphere among her students was due both to the highest quality musical and technical preparation, but to the attitude of positive encouragement and support which were evidently characteristic of Professor Prabucka-Firlej's teaching.

On behalf of the ECMTA, I wish to join with all our Polish colleagues who are today honoring this excellent colleague for 50 years of artistic and 40 years of pedagogical activity. It has been an honor to meet and collaborate with Professor Prabucka-Firlej, and it is our wish that as many colleagues as possible across Europe should be aware of her work, and that this work should serve as model for younger generations of chamber musicians and chamber music teachers.

With our sincerest best wishes,

*Evan Rothstein
Chairman ECMTA*

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