

Dear colleagues,

In the opening statement of “String Teacher” nr 19 I mentioned the difficult economic conditions and changes in our country’s cultural and educational policies at that time. Just two years later, it seems that not only for our country, but also for a large part of Europe financial security as well as cultural stability is sliding further and further away.

We can only hope that the experiences of our recent history have left us better equipped to continue our work successfully, despite adverse external influences.

The achievements of Estonian musicians throughout the world demonstrate without doubt the success of our instrumental music education. However, somewhat typically for a small nation, we often do not want to recognize that extraordinary feats can be accomplished and high standards set as home as well. Compiling a list of the large number of our string players who are working in foreign countries at the moment seems like an admission to talents lost to us, but on the other hand it affirms the high level of our music education. In particular, however, it should give food for thought for those who are responsible for making decisions that will affect the future of our professional musicians.

We should ourselves recognize and support outstanding musicians and excellent teachers, and not always wait for confirmation of their greatness to come from outside our country.

**Henry-David Varema
President of ESTA Estonia**