

From: **American Friends of the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra**

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MAESTRO ZUBIN MEHTA CANCELS HIS PARTICIPATION IN ISRAEL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA'S UPCOMING 2019 U.S. TOUR DUE TO HEALTH REASONS

Yoel Levi to Replace Mehta on Six-City Tour

New York, NY, Jan, XX, 2019 – The American Friends of the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra today announced that Maestro Zubin Mehta has been forced to bow out of the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra's upcoming 2019 U.S. Tour (Feb. 2-9) due to health reasons. Filling in for Mehta on the six-city tour is Yoel Levi, one of the world's leading conductors, known for his vast repertoire, masterly interpretations and electrifying performances.

The IPO's 2019 U.S. Tour was to mark Maestro Mehta's final U.S. tour before he retires as Music Director of the IPO in 2019, leaving behind a legacy of exceptional musicianship and humanitarianism.

"The unexpected news of Zubin's cancellation is an unfortunate turn of events, but we are grateful to Yoel for stepping in to conduct what we know will be a very exciting and uplifting U.S. Tour for the IPO," said David Hirsch, President of the Board of the American Friends of the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra. Hirsch continued, "We had been looking forward to celebrating and honoring Zubin's immeasurable contributions to the Israel Philharmonic, during what would have been his final U.S. tour as Music Director. All concerts on this tour conducted by Yoel will still be performed in recognition of Zubin."

Levi has had a long-standing relationship with the IPO, notably as the first Israeli to serve as Principal Guest Conductor of the Israel Philharmonic. Levi is Chief Conductor of the KBS Symphony Orchestra in Seoul, a position he has held since 2014. Having conducted some of the most prestigious orchestras throughout the world and appearing with esteemed soloists, Levi has led orchestras in North America that include the Cleveland and Philadelphia Orchestras, the Boston, Chicago and San Francisco Symphonies, and the New York Philharmonic, to name a very few.

The IPO's 2019 U.S. Tour will kick off with a Feb. 2 concert at the Tilles Center for the Performing Arts in Brookville, NY, that will feature performances of Schubert's "Symphony No. 3" and Bruckner's "Symphony No. 7."

On Feb. 3, the orchestra will perform at Carnegie Hall in New York, where the audience will hear Partos' "Concertino for Strings," Beethoven's "Romance No. 1" in G major, Op. 40, Beethoven's Romance No. 2" in F major, Op. 50, Kreisler's "Liebesleid," John Williams' "Theme from 'Schindler's List,'" Kreisler's "Liebesfreud" featuring violinist Itzhak Perlman, and Tchaikovsky's "Symphony No. 6." Preceding the concert will be a special Benefit Brunch.

The IPO will then perform on Feb. 5 at the Kravis Center for the Performing Arts in West Palm Beach, where the program will be Schubert's "Symphony No. 3" and Bruckner's "Symphony No. 7."

The following night, Feb. 6, the orchestra will perform at the Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts of Miami-Dade County, where the program will feature Schubert's "Symphony No. 3" and Bruckner's "Symphony No. 7."

On Feb. 7, the IPO will perform at the Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall in Sarasota, FL, where the program will be Partos' "Concertino for Strings," Schubert's "Symphony No. 3" and Tchaikovsky's "Symphony No. 6."

The orchestra will conclude its tour with a Feb. 9 concert at the University Musical Society of the University of Michigan (Hill Auditorium) in Ann Arbor, MI, where it will perform Partos' "Concertino for Strings," Schubert's "Symphony No. 3" and Tchaikovsky's "Symphony No. 6."

Individual concert tickets are being sold by each venue.

For more information and tickets for the Carnegie Hall pre-concert Benefit Bunch (Feb. 3), please call 212-697-2949 and email events@afipo.org.

In addition to New York, Benefit events will be held in Palm Beach and Miami. For details, call 212-697-2949 or email events@afipo.org.

Israel Philharmonic Orchestra 2019 U.S. Tour Schedule

- Feb. 2 – Tilles Center for the Performing Arts (Brookville, NY)
- Feb. 3 – Carnegie Hall (New York City)
- Feb. 5 – Kravis Center for the Performing Arts (Palm Beach)
- Feb. 6 – Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts of Miami-Dade County (Miami)
- Feb. 7 – Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall (Sarasota, FL)
- Feb. 9 – University Musical Society of the University of Michigan (Hill Auditorium) in Ann Arbor, MI

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About Israel Philharmonic Orchestra

The Israel Philharmonic Orchestra (IPO) was founded in 1936 by famed Polish violinist Bronislaw Huberman, and its inaugural concert that year was conducted by Arturo Toscanini. Two years earlier, in an effort to help fellow Jewish musicians escape Nazi persecution, Huberman set out to create an all Jewish orchestra in Palestine. Overcoming huge obstacles, Huberman recruited and arranged for 70 leading musicians, and their families, to immigrate to Palestine to form the Palestine Symphony Orchestra. Huberman's extraordinary efforts ultimately saved hundreds of Jewish lives. In 1948, when the State of Israel was born, the Orchestra changed its name to the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra, playing "Hatikvah" at the official ceremony of the Declaration of Independence.

Today, the IPO is the leading orchestra in Israel and globally recognized as a world-class symphonic ensemble. The Orchestra performs regularly in its home, the Charles Bronfman Auditorium in Tel Aviv as well as throughout Israel, including Jerusalem and Haifa. Additionally, it frequently tours internationally, traveling around the world from Asia to America. Since its inception, the IPO has enjoyed long-lasting relationships with renowned soloists and conductors which have kept it at the forefront of the classical music world. The longest and closest such relationship has been with the current Music Director, Maestro Zubin Mehta, who has been at the helm of the Orchestra for nearly 50 years.

About American Friends of the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra

For more than 80 years there has been a strong bond between North America and the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra. In fact, in 1936, legendary scientist Albert Einstein hosted one of the first major fundraisers at the Waldorf Astoria, securing the financial support needed to officially form the Orchestra.

American Friends of the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra (AFIPO) was created in 1980 to formalize and broaden this relationship and tradition of giving. AFIPO provides operating support for the orchestra's annual concert schedule of more than 100 concerts in their home hall, the Charles Bronfman Auditorium in Tel Aviv, as well as series in Jerusalem and Haifa. Financial support extends to orchestra tours that reach all corners of the globe, including regular tours to the United States, as well as to ticket subsidies for underserved individuals in Israel. AFIPO was instrumental in developing KeyNote, the education arm of the IPO, in 2000. KeyNote programs bring the joy of classical music to 22,000 young people and their teachers in Israel each year, while promoting mutual respect. AFIPO is a bi-coastal organization with a national board of directors and offices in New York and Los Angeles.