

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

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Embargoed for Release Until Monday, July 31st at 10 AM EST

**ISRAEL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA'S 2017 NORTH AMERICAN TOUR DATES
OFFICIALLY ANNOUNCED WITH OPENING NIGHT SCHEDULED FOR OCT. 25 AT
CARNEGIE HALL**

**Seven-City Tour Will Celebrate Maestro Zubin Mehta, Who Recently Announced his
Retirement as IPO's Iconic Music Director, Effective in 2019**

***Tickets for the Oct. 25 Concert, Presented by the American Friends of the Israel Philharmonic
Orchestra, to go on Sale to the General Public Starting Aug. 1***

New York, NY – July 31, 2017 – The full schedule of concert dates and programming for the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra's 2017 North American Tour were officially announced today by the American Friends of the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra with the opening night set for Oct. 25 at Carnegie Hall in New York. The seven-city tour, which concludes on Nov. 9, will celebrate and honor the legacy and extraordinary achievements of Maestro Zubin Mehta, who plans to retire as Music Director of the IPO in 2019 after 50 awe-inspiring years in the position.

“The tour of the United States this fall is particularly meaningful to me because of the extraordinary range of programming and soloists who will be engaged from coast to coast,” said Zubin Mehta. “I am always thrilled to have old friends including Pinchas Zukerman, Itzhak Perlman, Yefim Bronfman and Gil Shaham perform with the orchestra. The music we are making together is quite exciting, from Mozart to Mahler to Tchaikovsky. Returning to Toronto after 25 years is a milestone on this tour. Also, having the opportunity to conduct this orchestra four times at Carnegie Hall over a two-week span is a coveted opportunity.”

“This tour will celebrate Maestro Mehta at every step of the way,” said American Friends of the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra CEO Naomi Grabel. “His extraordinary leadership of the Israel Philharmonic for nearly five decades is unprecedented. The concert programs and soloists are exciting and will showcase the exceptional musicianship of our orchestra. So this tour is not to be missed.”

Presented by the AFIPO, the Oct. 25 concert at Carnegie Hall will feature an all-Mozart program and an AFIPO Benefit Gala honoring Maestro Mehta. The musical selections will be “The Marriage of Figaro (Le Nozze di Figaro) Overture,” “Symphony No. 36” in C major, K. 425

("Linz"), and "Sinfonia Concertante for Violin, Viola and Orchestra" in E-flat major, K. 364, featuring Itzhak Perlman and Pinchas Zukerman.

Following the Oct. 25 concert, the orchestra will return to Toronto for the first time in 25 years for a performance on Oct. 28 at Roy Thomson Hall that will feature the tour's first performance of Amit Poznansky's "Footnote" Suite from the score for the motion picture *Footnote*, Maurice Ravel's "Daphnis et Chloé, Suite No. 2" and Richard Strauss's "Ein Heldenleben (A Hero's Life)," Op. 40.

The IPO will then perform on Oct. 30 in Los Angeles at Walt Disney Concert Hall, which will mark the tour debut of Beethoven's "Piano Concerto No. 3" in C minor, Op. 37, featuring pianist Yefim Bronfman. The "Footnote" Suite and the tour debut of Franz Schubert's "Symphony No. 9 in C major" ("The Great") will round out the evening's music.

On Oct. 31, the orchestra will perform at Davies Symphony Hall in San Francisco, where the audience will hear Franz Schubert's "Symphony No. 9 in C major" ("The Great"), D. 944 along with the "Footnote" Suite and Mozart's "Symphony No. 36."

The following night, Nov. 1, the IPO will make its debut in Santa Barbara when it performs at The Arlington Theatre, presented by UCSB Arts & Lectures. The program will feature performances of "Footnote" Suite, Mozart's "Symphony No. 36" and Schubert's "Symphony No. 9."

The orchestra then returns east for a Nov. 4 concert at the Kravis Center for the Performing Arts in West Palm Beach, where the program will be "Footnote Suite," "Daphnis et Chloé" and "Ein Heldenleben."

The following evening, Nov. 5, the IPO will perform at the Arsht Center for the Performing Arts in Miami, where the program will be "Footnote" Suite, Mozart's "Symphony No. 36" and Schubert's "Symphony No. 9"

Then it's back to Carnegie Hall for three unique programs in as many nights, beginning Nov. 7 with Beethoven's "Piano Concerto No. 3" in C minor, Op. 37, again featuring Bronfman, the "Footnote" Suite and "Ein Heldenleben."

On Nov. 8, the IPO will be joined by Mezzo-Soprano Mihoko Fujimura, MasterVoices and the Manhattan Girls Chorus for an evening devoted to the tour's lone performance of Gustav Mahler's "Symphony No. 3."

For its final 2017 U.S. concert, Nov. 9, the orchestra will perform Schubert's "Symphony No. 9" along with the only tour performances of the Overture to "Oberon" by Carl Maria von Weber and Tchaikovsky's "Violin Concert in D major" Op. 35, featuring Gil Shaham.

“Over the past five decades, Zubin Mehta and the Israel Philharmonic have enjoyed a unique partnership that has brought extraordinary musical experiences to audiences around the globe,” said Carnegie Hall Executive and Artistic Director Clive Gillinson. “Throughout Maestro Mehta’s tenure, the IPO has continued to develop and grow, defined by its founding commitment to artistic excellence, musical integrity, and the power of music to bring people together. The passion, commitment, and loyalty that Maestro Mehta has shown to this ensemble over fifty years have made an important musical contribution to Israel and music worldwide. Carnegie Hall is thrilled to be a part of the orchestra’s North American tour this fall, joining in the celebration of this significant milestone.”

Tickets for the Carnegie Hall concert (Oct. 25) will go on sale to the public beginning Aug. 1 at 11 am. For more information and tickets, please visit www.carnegiehall.org, CarnegieCharge at 212-247-7800 and visit the box office at 57th Street and 7th Avenue.

Individual concert tickets are being sold by each venue.

For more information and tickets for the New York Benefit Gala (Oct. 25), please call 212-697-2949 and email events@afipo.org.

In addition to New York, Benefit Galas honoring Maestro Mehta will be held in four other tour cities – Toronto, Los Angeles, San Francisco and Miami.

Israel Philharmonic Orchestra 2017 North American Tour Schedule

- Oct. 25 – Carnegie Hall (New York City)
- Oct. 28 – Roy Thomson Hall (Toronto)
- Oct. 30 – Walt Disney Concert Hall (Los Angeles)
- Oct. 31 – Davies Symphony Hall (San Francisco)
- Nov. 1 – The Arlington Theatre (Santa Barbara, CA)
- Nov. 4 – Kravis Center for the Performing Arts (West Palm Beach)
- Nov. 5 – Arsht Center for the Performing Arts (Miami)
- Nov. 7-9 – Carnegie Hall (New York City)

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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 F. 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 21,000 young people and their teachers in Israel each year, while promoting tolerance and mutual respect. AFIPO is a bi-coastal organization with a national board of directors and offices in New York and Los Angeles.