



# Julian Rachlin

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Vienna, July 18<sup>th</sup>, 2019

Dear musicians, artistic management and audience members of the Toscanini Orchestra,

It is with great regret and a heavy heart that I must decline the performance of the New Year concert in Parma this coming January.

I had been anticipating this concert with excitement for several reasons. First, I hold the Toscanini Orchestra in the highest regard and was looking forward to performing the festive New Year program together. Secondly, this concert was especially meaningful to me as it would have been my Italian conducting debut. I too am disappointed.

The reason for the reschedule is an invitation to perform at the same time with my mentor for over 30 years, the one and only Zubin Mehta. As you know, Maestro Mehta has recently returned to the podium after a long illness and we have all been very concerned for his health. This invitation is a unique opportunity to play with him again, which I felt I must not decline. Maestro Mehta was among the very first conductors to launch my career when I was still a teenager. After all the support he provided me as a young and aspiring musician and throughout all the years since, honoring my teacher in this way feels like the right thing to do. I hope you understand.

This decision was particularly difficult given the planned event in Parma and my respect and affection for everyone involved with this concert. I would like to extend my sincere apologies to the Toscanini Orchestra and the Parma audience.

I am also deeply grateful to the Toscanini Orchestra's General Manager, Alberto Triola, for agreeing to reschedule the New Year concert to the following season (2020-21). It will be a pleasure and honor to usher in 2021 with a celebratory concert together.

Until then, I wish each of you a wonderful year filled with health, music and joy!

With my kindest regards,

Julian Rachlin