

Julian Rachlin
violin, conductor

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Julian Rachlin's career is a rare story of artistic evolution – from one of the world's most celebrated child prodigies to a fully-fledged, multidimensional musician at the summit of his profession. Since making his debut with the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra & Riccardo Muti at the age of just 14 (the youngest soloist in history to perform with the orchestra), for nearly four decades he has captivated audiences worldwide as a violinist of expressive depth and technical brilliance, whilst simultaneously forging a stellar reputation as a conductor, artistic director, and creative innovator.

As violinist and violist, Rachlin regularly appears with the most prestigious orchestras on every continent, from the Royal Concertgebouw and Chicago Symphony to the Bavarian Radio Symphony and Hong Kong Philharmonic. He enjoys collaborations with many of the world's most celebrated conductors – ranging from such legendary figures as the late Mariss Jansons and Lorin Maazel, to Daniele Gatti, Klaus Mäkelä, Zubin Mehta, Gianandrea Noseda, Santtu-Matias Rouvali, and beyond. His artistry is marked by a compelling blend of precision, intensity, and charisma that has made him one of the most admired performers of his generation.

Over the past two decades, Rachlin has also established himself as an equally commanding presence on the podium. Known for his meticulous preparation, deep insight into the score, and instinctive rapport with musicians, he conducts leading ensembles such as the BBC Philharmonic Orchestra, Chamber Orchestra of Europe, Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Filarmonica della Scala, Israel Philharmonic Orchestra, Konzerthausorchester Berlin, Oslo Philharmonic, Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, and the Vienna Symphony Orchestra, amongst others.

Rachlin is deeply committed to cultivating close and enduring artistic partnerships with ensembles. Since 2023, he serves as Music Director of the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra (Israel), leading its acclaimed debut international tour in 2025, and spearheading an ambitious multiyear strategy of artistic growth, transformative projects, and global touring. Also since 2023, he is Chief Conductor of the Kristiansand Symphony Orchestra (Norway), where – following his tenure as Principal Guest Conductor (2018–2023) – he has forged a dynamic artistic partnership and welcomed leading guest artists (such as Yefim Bronfman, Janine Jansen, and Mischa Maisky), firmly establishing the orchestra as one of Scandinavia's most vibrant ensembles. Rachlin appears as Artistic Partner of the Staatsphilharmonie Rheinland-Pfalz (Germany) in 15 concerts as conductor and soloist during the 2025/2026 concert season. Previous titled positions include Principal Guest Conductor of Finland's Turku Philharmonic (2017–2022), and Principal Artistic Partner of England's Royal Northern Sinfonia (2015–2020).

In addition to his work with orchestras, Rachlin is a passionate advocate for artistic exchange and has led numerous festivals over the course of his career – currently serving as Artistic Director of the Herbstgold Festival at the Esterházy Palace in Eisenstadt, Austria (2021–

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present). Under his leadership, the festival has become a magnet for world-class artists, innovative programming, and interdisciplinary collaborations, bringing together the tradition of one of Europe's most storied cultural sites with the vibrancy of contemporary performance.

Throughout his career, Rachlin has sought out creative partnerships across disciplines, uniting with such figures as Martha Argerich, Janine Jansen, Evgeny Kissin, Mischa Maisky, John Malkovich, Sir Roger Moore, Gérard Depardieu, and Austrian pop superstar Udo Jürgens. Composers including Lera Auerbach, Giya Kancheli, Krzysztof Penderecki, and Vangelis have entrusted him with world premieres, with Penderecki dedicating several major works to him. Rachlin's critically acclaimed recordings for Deutsche Grammophon, Sony Classical, and Warner Classics showcase a wideranging repertoire and a distinctive interpretive voice, earning praise for their artistic insight and emotional power. He has received numerous prizes and accolades for his work in the field of classical music, and is a UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador for the United Nations Children's Fund.

Born in Lithuania and raised in Vienna from the age of three, Julian Rachlin studied the violin with Boris Kuschnir and Pinchas Zukerman, and conducting with Mariss Jansons, Sophie Rachlin, and Daniele Gatti. Today, he is recognised not only as an artist of remarkable versatility, but as a powerful creative force whose work – whether on stage, on the podium, or in shaping major cultural events – reflects an unshakable commitment to artistic excellence.

Julian Rachlin plays on the 1704 “ex-Liebig” Stradivarius violin and a 1785 Lorenzo Storioni viola, on loan from the Dkfm. Angelika Prokopp Privatstiftung, and his strings are kindly sponsored by Thomastik-Infeld. When not on tour, he resides in Vienna with his wife, Sarah, and their dog, Rupert. Rachlin plays a 1704 ex-Liebig Stradivarius and a 1785 Lorenzo Storioni viola, courtesy of Dkfm Angelika Prokopp Privatstiftung.

Season 2025/2026

Please contact Weigold & Böhm if you wish to change the biography