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Pletnev Scraps British Gigs

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LONDON — Renowned pianist and conductor Mikhail Pletnev, accused of raping a 14-year-old boy in Thailand, has canceled two scheduled performances in Britain.

Pletnev said Thursday that he did not want the charges against him to overshadow the concerts by the Russian National Orchestra at London's Royal Albert Hall on Aug. 18 and in Edinburgh the next day. Pletnev said he hoped that the case would be cleared up soon, and "it will be clear that I am innocent of the accusations against me."

(AP)

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