

A black and white close-up portrait of a man with a beard and glasses, resting his chin on his hand. The image is high-contrast, with the subject's face and hand illuminated against a dark background.

Nayden Todorov

Conductor
Dirigent
Chef d'orchestre



In early December we could experience the Sofia Philharmonic under the direction of conductor Nayden Todorov in the sold-out Musikverein. Todorov manages to work out a special, warm and colorful sound. He succeeds in combining the classical Viennese tradition with the Slavic emotion. Conductor and the orchestra are obviously not looking for shows or big effects, but are about the music itself.

Wiener Zeitung – Austria
21.12.2019



• ‘A musician to the backbone whose harmonic and smooth movements enchant
• acoustically and visually’.

(Solothurner Zeitung, July 2005)

• **Nayden Todorov** is a contemporary European musician renowned for his versatile
• and vivid interpretations across various genres. Born in 1974 in Plovdiv, Bulgaria, he
• received his first piano lessons at the age of five and made his conducting debut at
• sixteen. While still a student in Vienna, Jerusalem, and Sofia, he began his concert
• career, performing across Europe, North America, South America, Asia, and Africa.
• He was selected from among 150 candidates to become the resident conductor of
• the Israel Northern Symphony Orchestra in Haifa. Todorov has recorded more than
• one hundred CDs for labels such as Naxos, Balkanton, MMO, Danacord, IMI, and
• Hungaroton, and has produced numerous music programs for radio and television.
• He has collaborated with some of the most prominent musicians of our time. In
• addition to his musical career, Todorov hosts a television program dedicated to
• classical music and, in his free time, writes short stories, some of which have been
• published in a book. He has twice been named “Musician of the Year” in Bulgaria,
• becoming one of only three Bulgarian musicians in history to receive this title more
• than once. Since 2017, he has served as Artistic Director of the Sofia Philharmonic.
• Recognized for this vision and his ability to elevate an institution to world level, he
• was invited to serve three times as Bulgaria’s Minister of Culture in a challenging
• period for the country – a rare acknowledgment of an artist’s broader leadership.
• With his vast experience on the podium, Todorov approaches every performance
• with inspiration and joy, offering interpretations that captivate both him and his
• audiences.

*A conductor with a very promising talent and great perspective...
The performance was marked by high emotion and professionalism...
An intelligent interpretation was a result of the confident leadership
of the conductor... The good balance in the orchestra, the powerful
dynamic construction combined with a feeling for artistic measure
are the notable result of his professionalism.*

Music Horizons - Bulgaria
2. 11.2000

*As it is Todorov probably handles this movement better than any of
the other versions I have heard including the Downes, Segerstam and
Schönwandt.*

Music Web International - United Kingdom
01.12.2001

*...Among the guest artists the greatest and most emotionally charged
bravo went deservedly to conductor Nayden Todorov... He presented
the music in lively fashion, pulsating, filled with rousing interest...
I would like very much to see again his art of conducting.*

Gazeta Wyborcza - Poland
25.02.2002



ORCHESTRAS

- Sinfonietta Baden, *Austria*
- Wiener Symphoniker, *Austria*
- Brazilian National Orchestra, *Brazil*
- Sofia Philharmonic, *Bulgaria*
- Bulgarian Radio Orchestra, *Bulgaria*
- Sofia Festival Orchestra, *Bulgaria*
- Sichuan Symphony Orchestra, *China*
- Czech National Symphony Orchestra, *Czech Republic*
- Orquesta Filarmónica de Bogotá, *Colombia*
- Denmark Radio Orchestra, *Denmark*
- Cairo Philharmonic Orchestra, *Egypt*
- London Symphony Orchestra, *England*
- Berliner Symphoniker, *Germany*
- Thueringer Symphoniker, *Germany*
- Athens Symphony Orchestra, *Greece*
- Haifa Symphony Orchestra, *Israel*
- Israel Chamber Orchestra, *Israel*
- San Remo Symphony Orchestra, *Italy*
- Sicilia Symphony Orchestra, *Italy*
- Toscanini Philharmonic, *Italy*
- Grosseto City Orchestra, *Italy*
- Tokyo City Philharmonic Orchestra, *Japan*
- Kosovo Philharmonic, *Kosovo*
- Orquesta Filarmónica de Jalisco, *Mexico*
- Poznan Philharmonic, *Poland*
- Orchestra du Norte, *Portugal*
- National Polish Radio Symphony Orchestra, *Poland*
- Porto Music Academy Orchestra, *Portugal*
- Bucharest Radio Orchestra, *Romania*
- Brasov Philharmonic, *Romania*
- George Enescu Philharmonic, *Bucharest, Romania*
- Jaroslavl Philharmonic, *Russia*
- Russian National Youth Symphony Orchestra, *Russia*
- Udmurt State Philharmonic, *Russia*
- Kosice Opera Orchestra, *Slovakia*
- Prime Philharmonic Orchestra, *South Korea*
- Bucheon Philharmonic, *South Korea*
- Orchestra Palma di Mallorca, *Spain*
- Adana Symphony Orchestra, *Turkey*
- İzmir State Symphony Orchestra, *Turkey*
- Borusan Istanbul Philharmonic Orchestra, *Turkey*
- Lviv Virtuosos Chamber Orchestra, *Ukraine*
- Thames Chamber Orchestra, *UK*
- LA Festival Chamber Orchestra, *USA*
- among others.

The 28-year-old conductor proved himself to be the “key to success” of Saturday’s concert. He is an extremely gifted musician with a large personality, filled with the joy of creating music and possessing great skill in his dialogue with the orchestra, and in fulfilling all of one’s expectations...

Glos Wielkopolski – Poland
24.02.2002

The orchestra, chorus and four soloists were all exemplary musicians, deeply familiar with Mozart’s style and directed firmly and subtly by conductor Nayden Todorov. Symphony No. 40 emerged with high energy in the first movement, gentle colors in the second, intense drama in the minuet and quicksilver brilliance in the finale.

Washington Post – USA
04.11.2003

With his presence and sensitivity in the accompaniment of the arias, Todorov conveyed the security that the performers need on stage in order to be able to concentrate fully on their singing and playing. They thanked him and the audience with remarkable achievements.

Aargauer Zeitung – Switzerland
18.07.2003



Sarah Chang



Maxim Vengerov

SINGERS

Andrea Care	Michele Crider
Ana Durlovski	Michael Spyres
Angela Gheorghiu	Mickael Spadaccini
Anna Netrebko	Nicola Ghiuselev
Anna Tomowa-Sintow	Noemi Nadelmann
Aleksandra Kurzak	Orlin Anastasov
Bülent Bezdüz	Plácido Domingo
Bryn Terfel	Pretty Yende
Dimitra Theodosiou	Raina Kabaivanska
Eduard Tomagian	Roberto Alagna
Gezim Myshketa	Rolando Villazón
Ghena Dimitrova	Samuel Ramey
He Hui	Serena Sáenz
Johannes Martin Kränzle	Sonya Yoncheva
Jose Carreras	Stephen Costello
Jörg Schneider	Thomas Hampson
Julian Konstantinov	Vincenzo Sanso
Kaludi Kaludov	Vittoria Yeo
Kamen Chaney	Vittorio Grigolo
Lucas Meachem	Vesselina Kasarova
Maria Agresta	Yusif Eyvazov
Marzio Giossi	among others.

Conductor Nayden Todorov drew fine shaping from the strings. The brass section met his demands with fearless vigor, awesome accuracy, and excellent solo work from woodwinds wove through singers' arias.

The Eagle - USA
06.10.2003

Nayden Todorov, the conductor, kept things moving, allowing the singers leeway but making sure they didn't go overboard. He set crisp, swift tempi, and was in obvious control.

Charleston Entertainment - USA
23.11.2003

Especially Nayden Todorov is a magician of the sound, with feverish tempos and a sense for the Gounod's elegance and melting melody.

Berner Zeitung - Switzerland
21.07.2003



Paul Badura-Skoda



Ivo Pogorelich

INSTRUMENTALISTS

• Alexander Ullman	• Liya Petrova	• Yuri Bashmet
• Alexandre Kantorow	• Ludmil Angelov	• Vadim Repin
• Arie Vardi	• Lucienne Renaudin Vary	• Valentina Lisica
• Augustin Hadelich	• Maria João Pires	• Viktoria Mullova
• Aurélien Pascal	• Martha Argerich	<i>among others.</i>
• Bernd Glemser	• Maxim Vengerov	
• Bomsori	• Midori	
• Camille Thomas	• Mikhail Pletnev	
• Daniel Hope	• Milena Mollova	
• Elisabeth Leonskaja	• Mincho Minchev	
• Emmanuel Tjeknavorian	• Patricia Kopatchinskaja	
• Emmanuel Pahud	• Paul Badura-Skoda	
• Gautier Capuçon	• Peter Rösel	
• Gidon Kremer	• Pnina Salzman	
• Guy Braunstein	• Ray Chen	
• Ivo Pogorelic	• Sabine Meyer	
• Joan Kwuon	• Santiago Cañón-Valencia	
• Julian Rachlin	• Sarah Chang	
• Joshua Bell	• Sergei Nakariakov	
• Katia and Marielle Labeque	• Sharon Kam	
• Khatia Buniatishvili	• Stephen Kovacevich	
• Kirill Gerstein	• Svetlin Roussev	
• Ksenija Sidorova	• Tine Thing Helseth	

As a performance, it would be hard to imagine a better one... If I may dream an impossible dream, I would wish that I could expose every lover of ballet, classical music, and lover of the story of Don Quixote to this recording. The Sofia National Opera Orchestra, along with Nayden Todorov, has produced a gem and should be proud.

MusicWeb International - United Kingdom

20.01.2004

The wider range of Todorov's tempi enables the exciting climaxes to achieve their effect all the more powerfully.

Gramophone - United Kingdom

01.02.2004

The orchestra, directed by Nayden Todorov, interpreted Macbeth's melodic score beautifully as well as the singers; the ensemble numbers in particular were fantastic.

Press & Sun Bulletin - USA

19.10.2005



Gidon Kremer



Gautier Capuçon

CONCERT HALLS

- Grosses Festspielhaus, Salzburg, Austria
- Brucknerhaus, Linz, Austria
- Konzerthaus, Vienna, Austria
- Musikverein, Vienna, Austria
- BOZAR, Brussels, Belgium
- Bulgaria Hall, Sofia, Bulgaria
- National Palace of Culture, Sofia, Bulgaria
- Poly Theatre, Shenzhen, China
- Opera House, Guangzhou, China
- Vatroslav Lisinski Concert Hall, Zagreb, Croatia
- DR Koncerthuset, Copenhagen, Denmark
- Opera House, Cairo, Egypt
- Palais de la Musique, Strasbourg, France
- Palais de l'Unesco, Paris, France
- Philharmonie, Berlin, Germany
- Konzerthaus, Bamberg, Germany
- Konzerthaus, Karlsruhe, Germany
- Kurhaus, Wiesbaden, Germany
- Meistersingerhalle, Nuremberg, Germany
- Laeiszhalle, Hamburg, Germany
- Herkulesaal, Munich, Germany
- Liederhalle, Stuttgart, Germany
- Alte Oper, Frankfurt, Germany
- Tonhalle, Duesseldorf, Germany
- Auditorium, Haifa, Israel
- Henry Crown Hall, Jerusalem, Israel
- Teatro Politeama, Palermo, Italy
- Teatro Regio, Parma, Italy
- The Symphony Hall, Osaka, Japan
- Tokyo Bunka Kaikan, Japan
- Concertgebouw, Amsterdam, Netherlands
- Coliseu, Porto, Portugal
- Coliseu dos Recreios, Lisbon, Portugal
- Sala Palatului, Bucharest, Romania
- Bolshoi Theatre, Moscow, Russia
- Tchaikovsky Concert Hall, Moscow, Russia
- Slovak Philharmonic, Bratislava, Slovakia
- CJ Towol Theater, Seoul, South Korea
- Auditorio Nacional de Música, Madrid, Spain
- Auditorio, Zaragoza, Spain
- L'Auditori, Barcelona, Spain
- Kongresshaus, Zurich, Switzerland
- Tonhalle, Zürich, Switzerland
- St Martin-in-the-Fields, London, UK
- Fox Theatre, Atlanta, USA
- Irvine Auditorium, Philadelphia, USA
- Gartner Auditorium, Cleveland, USA
- among others.

Most interesting in this "Aida" was the sound produced by the orchestra, conducted by Nayden Todorov. The strings and winds blended wonderfully with dark, shadowy hues. Even the brasses' blare was blunted by a pillowy softness.

The Wichita Eagle - USA
13.03.2005

A conductor who seduces ... Not only the devil seduces the Faust audience of Solothurn, but once again the young conductor Nayden Todorov. Two years ago, "Faust" became a sensational success under his direction, last summer also "Andrea Chénier" Nayden Todorov shades the "Faust" color of the score, dabbing highlights with a supple sound and a soulful melody with a fine brush. The Bulgarian breathes with the singers. A musician through and through who fascinates acoustically and optically with round, flowing movements.

Solothurner Zeitung - Switzerland
11.07.2005



Raina Kabaivanska



Evgeni Bozhanov, Martha Argerich

OPERA THEATERS

- Volksooper Wien, *Austria*
- Sofia National Opera, *Bulgaria*
- Rousse State Opera, *Bulgaria*
- Plovdiv State Opera, *Bulgaria*
- Varna State Opera, *Bulgaria*
- Bourgas State Opera, *Bulgaria*
- Stara Zagora State Opera, *Bulgaria*
- Cairo Opera House, *Egypt*
- Teatro Cilea Reggio Calabria, *Italy*
- Teatro Regio di Parma, *Italy*
- Città della Notte, *Italy*
- Teatro Regio di Parma, *Italy*
- Macedonian National Opera, *Macedonia*
- Brasov Opera, *Romania*
- Constanta Opera, *Romania*
- Bucharest National Opera, *Romania*
- İstanbul State Opera and Ballet, *Turkey*
- Belgrade National Opera, *Serbia*
- Liceu Opera Barcelona, *Spain*
- New Brunswick State Theatre, *USA*
- Wilmington Grand Opera House, *USA*
- Wichita Grand Opera, *USA*
- among others.



Maria João Pires

There is considerable orchestral music included in these excerpts and Nayden Todorov coaxes wonderfully expressive playing from his Sofia orchestra... Another Naxos opera triumph. An intelligent and valuable concept. All performed with passion and commitment.

Music Web International - United Kingdom

29.08.2006

Todorov is endowed with a rare ability for communication with the performers, which is why he has been preferred to the world's most prestigious orchestras and soloists.

Jurnalul National - Romania

22.11.2007



Emmanuel Pahud

A lot of applause after the interpretation of the Overture for the conductor Todorov, who offered a delicious, very balanced version, in which he succeeded to show the qualities of the orchestra.

La Voz de Galicia - Spain

01.05.2007

The musicians of State Opera Rouse were led by their chief conductor Nayden Todorov, who displayed excellent cooperation, rousing enthusiasm for the music and great skill.

Schaffhauser Nachrichten - Switzerland

24. 10. 2007



Midori



Thomas Hampson



Joshua Bell

Conductor Nayden Todorov is a capable opera conductor who can hold a performance together very well and lovingly paints out interesting details.

Salzburger Kulturzeitung – Austria
08.01.2008

Even here conductor Nayden Todorov impressively demonstrated that he had a firm grip on the ensemble. Just watching the man conduct his orchestra was a feast for the eyes.

Schwarzwaldor Bote – Germany
31.07.2009



Viktoria Mullova

The orchestra under the sensitive direction of its conductor Nayden Todorov shone professionally and harmoniously with the famous “first” violin of Dimitrij Shostakovich.

Allgemeine Zeitung – Germany
18.01.2010

The orchestra lent excitement and drama through the energetic yet sensitive direction of the conductor Nayden Todorov.

Kreis-Anzeiger – Germany
30.10.2010

The sensitive accompaniment by the Orchestra under the direction of Nayden Todorov is accentuated and yet pleasantly reserved and thus makes a decisive contribution to perfect listening pleasure.

Suedkurier – Germany
31.12.2013



Angela Gheorghiu



Sonya Yoncheva and Plácido Domingo

Wichita Grand Opera did themselves proud with this performance of Rossini's last and perhaps greatest opera... The audience appeared quite enthralled by this profound work, applauding generously after scenes and arias, and greeting the conclusion of the stirring finale with unrestrained enthusiasm.

Opera News - USA
14. 03 2014

The Sofia Philharmonic Orchestra likes to play with Nayden Todorov, the musicians play with desire and this was evident in Requiem, they are well prepared, they are reactive, they gave their bests.

Kultura - Bulgaria
28.11.2014

Nayden Todorov and his orchestra managed to convey the enthusiasm for the imperishable dream material of eroticism and death in a well-coordinated interplay with the soloists and ensemble members at the opera gala on the Schlossberg.

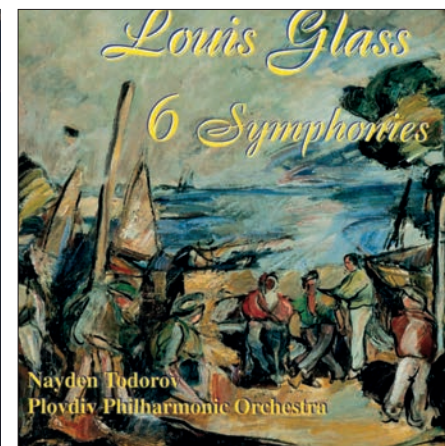
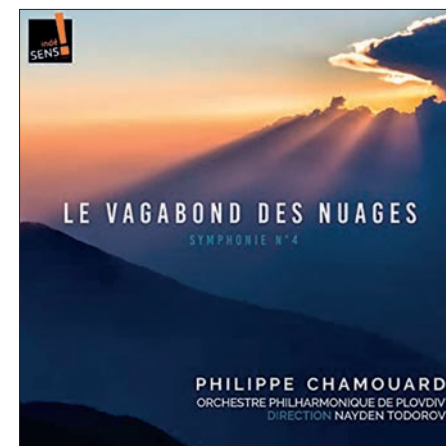
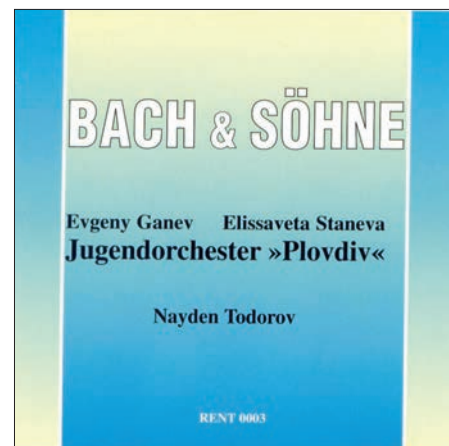
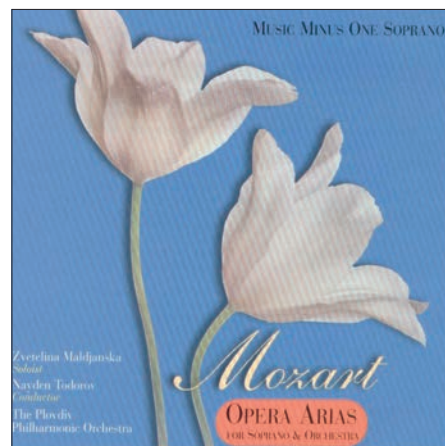
Allgemeine Zeitung - Germany
01.08.2015



A kind of frenzied devotion to his (Shostakovich's) music was coming from the stage. Every sound, every line stood out in the overall message. Articulated, crafted, guided, unified by the thought in Todorov's reading. In which the transition to the fourth movement was also marked by the conductor's personal ideas, by the carefully touched movements in the phrases. With each slight 'shift' of sonic weight, with each nuance in the colouring of the tonal emission, Shostakovich's phrase changed in volume and meaning. There were quite a few moments here that I thought were the mark of an evocative and very well-crafted personal interpretation. An interpretation devoid of superfluous effects turned inwards! And that was obviously something of a cause for the whole ensemble.

Decrescendo - Bulgaria
16.02.2021







... www.naydentodorov.com



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