

Todor Pelev, Concertmaster

Born and raised in Bulgaria, Todor Pelev first attracted international attention when he captured the silver medal in the Wieniawski International Violin Competition in Poland and first prize in Bulgaria's National Violin Competition. After graduating from the Sofia Conservatory, he emigrated to the United States and continued his studies at the Juilliard School and at the Eastman School of Music.

Over his career, Todor has appeared as a guest soloist with major orchestras such as the National Symphony at the Kennedy Center, and has appeared with the Baltimore Symphony at the Carnegie Hall. He was concertmaster of the Baltimore Opera and the Riverside, South Bay and Redlands symphony orchestras before joining the San Bernardino Symphony in 1993. In that role, he is also concertmaster for the Redlands Bowl Festival Orchestra. Since joining the Symphony, he has not missed a single performance. Some of the words Todor's colleagues in the orchestra use to describe him are "always prepared," "a great leader," "a community ambassador," and "genuinely talented."

In addition to his work with the Symphony, Todor teaches at the Pomona College, the Claremont Graduate University and the Idyllwild Arts Academy. His former students include winners of national and international competitions, concertmasters of orchestras including the London Philharmonic, Hong Kong Symphony, New Haven Symphony, Boston Civic Symphony, Cleveland Opera, as well as college and conservatory professors.