

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN SWALIN

Benjamin Franklin Swalin is Director of the North Carolina Symphony Orchestra. Born in Minneapolis, he attended Columbia University and the University of Vienna. He performed as a violinist with the Minneapolis Symphony and taught at DePauw University before coming to the University of North Carolina in 1935, where he taught until 1945. His book, The Violin Concerto: A Study in German Romanticism, and several articles in musical journals established him as a musical scholar. His compositions for violin and piano, chamber orchestras, and the symphony established him as a composer. Dr. Swalin's most devoted work, however, was the direction of the North Carolina Symphony Orchestra. In thirty-two years under his tutelage this orchestra developed into one of the best of its kind, bringing great music to all the people of North Carolina. It has performed more free concerts for the schools, it is said, than any other professional orchestra in North America. A whole generation of children in this state owe to Dr. Swalin and to this Orchestra their introduction to fine music. Once called "that Swede from Minnesota" Dr. Swalin has become a Tar Heel in the finest sense. The University of North Carolina is delighted to applaud--fortissimo--Dr. Swalin's best composition--his life's work--by granting him the degree, Doctor of Fine Arts.