

**Thomas Forrest Kelly**  
**Doctor of Humane Letters**

Thomas Forrest Kelly is the Morton B. Knafel Professor of Music at Harvard. He was born in Greensboro but moved to Chapel Hill with his family as a child. He is the grandson of Archibald Henderson, one of the first class of Kenan Professors. Kelly attended Groton School and returned to Chapel Hill to earn his B.A. degree at Carolina. Two years in France on a Fulbright grant enabled him to study organ with Jean Langlais privately and at the Schola Cantorum de Paris and the Royal Academy of Music in London. Kelly did his graduate work at Harvard, receiving his M.A. in 1970 and his Ph.D. in 1973. He joined the Harvard faculty in 1994. He served as chair of the Department of Music from 1999 to 2004 and was named a Harvard College Professor in 2005 in recognition of his undergraduate teaching.

Kelly's scholarly works focus on early music, particularly ecclesiastical chant of the Middle Ages. His monumental book *The Beneventan Chant* won the Otto Kinkeldey Award from the American Musicological Society for the most distinguished work of musicological scholarship of 1989. This was followed by eleven more books and over fifty scholarly articles written in both English and French.

Equally impressive is Kelly's extensive work as a public scholar. He has published five books that seek to bring musical scholarship and performance to life for general audiences. The most recent of these, *Capturing Music: The Story of Notation* (2014), tells a story that spans five hundred years, leading the reader on a journey through medieval Europe and showing how we learned to keep track of rhythm, melody, and precise pitch with a degree of accuracy previously unimagined. A frequent lecturer and broadcaster, he has served as Artistic Director of the Castle Hill Festival (1973-83), Director of the International Early Dance and Music Institute (1982-84), and Music Director of the Cambridge Society for Early Music (1977-78).

Kelly has been honored as a Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres of the French Republic, a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and a Fellow of the American Academy in Rome. In 2005 he received Carolina's Distinguished Alumnus Award. He is an honorary citizen of the city of Benevento, Italy.

For outstanding contributions to scholarship and the public humanities, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill is pleased to confer on Thomas Forrest Kelly the degree of Doctor of Humane Letters *honoris causa*.