

KENNETH ALBERT GILBERT

Kenneth Gilbert was born in Montreal, graduated from the Montreal Conservatorium and then went to Paris, studying organ with Gaston Litaize, composition with Nadia Boulanger and the harpsichord with Ruggero Gerlin. He began a long and distinguished career as a concert organist and harpsichordist in Europe and North America, performing in many of the major European concert venues and on many historic organs, and becoming in his home country a leading figure in the organ reform movement, which brought about the installation of many new tracker-action instruments. He has occupied a number of leading teaching posts, including professorships at the Royal College of Music, London, the Paris Conservatoire de Musique, and McGill University, Canada; and in 1989 was appointed professor of harpsichord at the Mozarteum in Salzburg.

As a performer he has made numerous recordings, and has been especially acclaimed for his stylistically elegant interpretations of French music of the 17th and 18th centuries. He has become an authority on the music of François Couperin, whose complete *Pièces de clavecin* he has recorded and also edited for publication. As a scholar his work includes editions of the complete sonatas of Domenico Scarlatti, the harpsichord works of Rameau and D'Anglebert, the toccatas of Frescobaldi and Michelangelo Rossi, and his own keyboard transcriptions of the lute music of Kapsberger.

He also became a key figure in the development of Editions de l'Oiseau-lyre of Monaco, one of the world's most distinguished publishers of scholarly editions of music, which had been founded by the Melbourne philanthropist Louise Dyer and is now owned by the University of Melbourne. As a long-time adviser, board member, and for the past five years director of the press, he has worked tirelessly to guide the press towards completion of its collected edition of the repertoire of the late medieval Notre Dame school, as well as many of its other historic musical editions.

He was awarded an Honorary Doctorate in Music from McGill University in Montreal, is an Officer in both the Order of Canada and the Ordre des Arts et des Lettres of France, and has received the Austrian Cross of Honour First Degree. He is an Honorary Member of the Royal Academy of Music, and a Fellow of the Royal College of Music and of the Royal Society of Canada.