The Ray and Mary Kennedy Family
Endowed Collection in Irish Music

Ray and Mary Kennedy both graduated from St. John’s University in 1963. Ray also attended New York University’s MBA program and Harvard University’s Executive Marketing Management program. He began his career at AMF Corporation as a financial analyst. In 1995, he became executive vice president of Masco Corporation. Ray was a member of both the Notre Dame Advisory Council for the Hesburgh Libraries and the Edward Frederick Sorin Society until his untimely death in February 2003. The Kennedys have three children: Raymond (’87), Michael (’88), and Kevin (’90).

In 1931, Francis O’Neill, retired captain of the Chicago Police Department and one of the best-known collectors and annotators of Irish music, donated his private library of some 1,500 volumes on Irish history and music to Notre Dame. The Kennedy Family Collection supports the development of the collection that Francis himself would have wished to create had the materials and funds been available.

This endowment allows the libraries to acquire, in all appropriate formats, works that focus on the documented, authoritative history of music in Ireland, both pre-20th-century and contemporary. In monographic and periodical materials, the endowment supports serious scholarship in the history of Irish music; by groups that understand the tradition and record the music that was or would have been important to Francis.

The Kennedys have established a second fund at the Named level. It also supports the acquisition of recorded performances.