The Paul and Dora Rath Endowed Collection
For the Continuing Study of Traditional American Music: Jazz, Blues, and Gospel

Charles W. Rath (’58) created this endowment in memory of his parents, who gave him the “freedom to pursue many loves... among them, jazz, blues, and gospel music.” Charlie, the retired executive vice president of marketing for Wendy’s International, and his wife, Mary Susan (Susie), have three children and seven grandchildren. A member of the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption, the Catholic Foundation, and the Bexley Education Foundation, Charlie is also co-founder of the American School of Double Bass, founder of the Firehouse Jazz Society, and president and trustee of the Jazz Arts Group. Charlie served as management supervisor on the Wendy’s account during the memorable “Where’s the Beef?” ad campaign. He has also worked with Johnson & Johnson and Upjohn.

Paul, Charlie’s dad, ran the family business, Rath Business Forms, and Dora was a full-time mother. Charlie’s sister, Carol Busch, lives in Springfield, Ohio.

Because of the Rath Endowment, the Hesburgh Libraries have been able to create solid, representative collections of Scott Joplin, George Gershwin, Eubie Blake, Cole Porter, Margie Carmichael, Jerome Kern, Louis Armstrong, Billie Holiday, Ella Fitzgerald, Mahalia Jackson, and others. The endowment has also enabled the acquisition of journals necessary to support educational programs and research initiatives in American music; the upgrading of the reference and bibliographic resources from a general character to their more specialized research counterparts; and the acquisition of doctoral dissertations relevant to the field of American music.