Established by the Phil D. Spaeth Foundation through the efforts of Margaret Krause, the Phil and Dorothy Spaeth Collection was the first named library collection in music at Notre Dame.

Margaret was Dorothy’s sister; she also served as Phil’s secretary and bookkeeper and handled all of the Spaeths’ financial affairs. She and Dorothy were both longtime supporters of Notre Dame. Phil owned Realistic Waves, a company he eventually sold to Revlon. After Phil and Dorothy passed away, Margaret established this endowed library collection in their memory.

The Phil and Dorothy Spaeth Endowed Collection in Music significantly improved the Hesburgh Libraries’ collection of materials in support of the Department of Music. The needs of this academic unit are great, especially in the area of scores. With so many different forms of music—including symphonies, concertos, and a variety of chamber ensembles such as string quartets, organ, and vocal, multiplied by the identifiable periods in the history of Western music, from medieval to the 20th century—the materials support problems are apparent. The Spaeth Endowment is the resource that allows the libraries to acquire these scores.