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**BEYONCE, CLINT BLACK, ERIC CLAPTON AND BONNIE RAITT
JOIN THE TEXAS MUSIC PROJECT
TO STRENGTHEN MUSIC EDUCATION IN SCHOOLS**

Texas Music Project to Distribute \$200,000 to Texas Schools in 2004

DALLAS – Following the Texas Music Project’s successful first CD, 19 new artists are contributing songs to Volume Two of “Don’t Mess With Texas Music™.” Beyoncé, Clint Black, Eric Clapton, George Strait, Jimmie and Steve Ray Vaughan, Pat Green, Bobby “Blue” Bland, Bonnie Raitt and Steve Miller are just a few of the all-star artists on the compilation CD dedicated to raising awareness and funding for music education in Texas schools. The Texas Music Project (TMP) is an initiative of the Social Marketing Resource Center, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

“Music makes such a difference in the lives of children and regrettably there are too many schools where music is not an emphasis. The TMP ‘Don’t Mess with Texas Music’ CD is an opportunity to make a difference for Texas music education,” said honorary chair and Houston native, Beyoncé.

Volume Two is the latest in the series of CDs in which Texas music legends and deserving artists are brought together by TMP to support music education throughout the state. Proceeds from sales of the CD benefit Texas’ schools via TMP grants for music education distributed through the Texas Commission of the Arts.

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"Don't Mess with Texas" is a trademark of the Texas Department of Transportation and used by permission. TxDOT and the Texas Music Project thank you for not littering.

"Music teachers from across the state tell us programs are being eliminated and they are in desperate need of funds for music education," said Bruce Orr, co-founder and president of TMP. "And these teachers are not just concerned about the next generation of musicians. They see how music touches all students, building self-esteem, teamwork and strengthening families and communities, while reducing drop-out rates."

The "Don't Mess With Texas Music" CD is now available on TMP's website (www.texasmusicproject.org), at CD retailers throughout the state and, for a limited time at all Texas Starbucks Coffee and Brook Mays Music locations (including H&H and Caldwell Music stores).

"I feel a kinship with Texas music and your great history of artists. The Texas Music Project's 'Don't Mess With Texas Music' CD is a wonderful project that aids music education in Texas schools and assists the next generation in achieving their potential regardless of their career choice," said guest artist Eric Clapton, who performs a song originally recorded in Texas by blues legend, Robert Johnson.

"The first release of the Texas Music Project, which brought together Texas musicians like Founding Chair Willie Nelson, Clint Black, Erykah Badu and the Dixie Chicks, generated significant awareness for music education and will contribute nearly \$200,000 to music education programs in 2004," according to Orr. "Thanks to more than 60 Texas musicians, our statewide corporate sponsors and the communities that have supported this initiative, we are beginning to make an impact by meeting both the needs of Texas communities and the companies that serve them."

"You never know who the next Mozart will be," said county music legend and honorary chair, Clint Black. "Schools are not only there for mathematicians, scientists and historians. Schools are there for those who will carry out art forms into the future, and perhaps like me, other students about to give up on (their education) will find their way in the world through music."



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The "Don't Mess With Texas Music" compilation is also made possible by the support of community, arts and educational organizations and the generosity of corporate partners like Dell and the Gaylord Texan Resort and Convention Center in addition to Brook Mays Music Group and Starbucks Coffee Company.

"It upsets me to see music cut from school budgets," said Willie Nelson, founding honorary chair of the TMP. "Everyone supporting the Project is doing it because they love music, and because they understand music education helps kids reach their full potential, regardless of what they grow up to be. We all want Texas kids to have that chance."

The Texas Music Project is a statewide initiative founded by the Social Marketing Resource Center with a mission of restoring and strengthening music education in Texas schools. TMP grants will be distributed to schools by the Texas Commission on the Arts, and awarded based on need. Applications for grants can be submitted online at www.texasmusicproject.org or www.arts.state.tx.us at anytime. It is the intention of the Texas Music Project that grants be used to support the implementation of full-time, rigorous music education curricula. For more information on Texas Music Project, visit www.texasmusicproject.org

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