



TEXAS MUSIC PROJECT **Artist Biographies**

“Don’t Mess with Texas Music™” represents the best in Texas music and performers, cutting across a wide diversity of cultures and musical genres. It includes 21 great Texas artists and songwriters, including 11 Grammy Award winners who have received a total of 37 Grammys, three Country Music Award winners receiving 19 CMAs, and four W.C. Handy Blues Award winners receiving 17 Handy’s.



ASLEEP AT THE WHEEL

Nine-time Grammy Award winning country band, Asleep at the Wheel, was formed in Paw Paw, W.Va., in 1970. As the leader of the Austin, Texas-based band, Ray Benson has dedicated the last 30-plus years of his life toward the pursuit of keeping alive the musical spirit of Texas legend Bob Wills, the “King of Western Swing.” In addition to his work with the Texas Music Project, Benson also is a founding member of the Rhythm & Blues Foundation. "Beyond Time" is the first-ever solo album from Benson, and the band’s latest release, “The Very Best of Asleep at the Wheel,” is a collection of 14 of its most popular dance tunes.



ERYKAH BADU

Not surprisingly, the sultry jazz and R&B artist Erykah Badu displayed considerable talent in the fine arts from early childhood, excelling in dance, voice and art lessons, even before her years at Booker T. Washington, Dallas’ most well-known performing arts high school. A three-time Grammy Award winner, the Dallas-native released both her triple platinum debut album, “Baduizm,” and its follow-up, “Live!,” in 1997. She’s since gone on to release the acclaimed “Mama’s Gun” and establish an equally promising film career, highlighted by her appearance in “The Cider House Rules.” Now an established artist, Badu fuses jazz, R&B and hip-hop with her talents as writer, producer, director, poet, dancer and visual artist.