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Texas kids have musical friends

By Michael D. Clark

Who says politics and music don't mix? The recently organized Texas Music Project has figured out a way to promote Lone Star talent while contributing to the state's schools.

The project has released the first in a series of all-star compilations titled *Don't Mess With Texas Music*. Proceeds will go to helping rebuild music education in schools.



From left, Houston Marchman, Patricia Vonne and Clarence "Gatemouth" Brown are part of a Texas Music Project album.

"It upsets me to see music cut from school budgets," said **Willie Nelson**, honorary chairman of the Texas Music Project. "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."

In addition to Nelson's blues collaboration with **B.B. King** on *Night Life*, other contributors include such superstars as the **Dixie Chicks**, **Erykah Badu** and Houston's **Clint Black**, as well as **Clarence "Gatemouth" Brown** and new in-state gems **Ruthie Foster**, **Patricia Vonne** and **Houston Marchman**.

Don't Mess With Texas Music will be available at select retail outlets like Starbucks and Randalls, as well as visitors' bureaus throughout the state. Copies also can be ordered at www.texasmusicproject.org <<http://www.texasmusicproject.org>>.

<http://www.chron.com/cs/CDA/story.hts/ae/music/buzz/2105456>