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Singers help out Texas music programs



Robert Mora, Getty Images

Nelson: He's front-man for the group.

Willie Nelson, Ray Benson and Michelle Shocked are teaming up to help protect music programs in Texas public schools. "Don't Mess With Texas Music," similar to music channel VH1's national "Save the Music" program, will channel proceeds from sales of a CD by the same name into grants for school music programs. Many Texas school districts facing budget crunches are beginning to cut back on music programs. The \$15 CD, to be released next month, will feature songs by 21 artists with Texas ties, including Clarence "Gatemouth" Brown, Lucinda Williams and Erykah Badu. Nelson is the honorary chairman of the Texas Music Project, the group behind the initiative. Asleep at the Wheel leader Benson and Grammy-nominated singer/songwriter Shocked are on the organization's advisory board.

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