



**PRESS RELEASE**

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**FINN & PORTER RESTAURANT CELEBRATES GRAND OPENING**  
**WITH STAR-STUDED FUNDRAISER FOR MUSIC EDUCATION**  
**Event Proceeds Will Benefit AISD, Texas Music Project**

**Austin, March 15, 2004** – The *Finn & Porter*™ Restaurant will celebrate its grand opening Monday with a star-studded fundraiser for the Texas Music Project benefiting music education programs in the Austin Independent School District.

More than 15 top-name performers supporting music education will mingle with guests at the red-carpet event from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., Monday, March 15, 2004, at Austin's newest fine-dining restaurant, located at 500 E. Fourth Street. Tickets for the event are \$50 per person, which includes hot and cold hors d'oeuvres reflective of the *Finn & Porter*™ menu, as well as beverages, including a special selection of wines. Tickets may be reserved by calling 493-4900.

Danni Leigh, fresh from her successful European tour, will perform. Students from AISD music education programs also will perform as an example of the budding talent the Texas Music Project was designed to help support.

Other artists scheduled to attend include: Joe Ely, Trish Murphy, Kacy Crowley, Jimmy LaFave, Patricia Vonne, Ruben Ramos, Eliza Gilkyson, Kimmie Rhodes, Del Castillo, Monte Montgomery,

## ***Finn & Porter* star-studded celebration 2 2 2**

Ray Rodriguez, Colin Gilmore, Haydon Nicholas, Grupo Fantasma, Vallejo and others.

"Music is such a big part of Austin's culture and the *Finn & Porter*<sup>™</sup> wants to be in on the ground floor of developing new talent by supporting music education programs in Austin," said Nick Floulis, general manager of the *Finn & Porter*<sup>™</sup>. "We are honored and excited about our relationship with the Texas Music Project and its efforts to promote music education in Texas."

The Texas Music Project was created to strengthen music education in Texas schools. TMP's statewide campaign, "Don't Mess with Texas Music<sup>™</sup>" generated an estimated \$500,000 in media value for music education in 2003. Approximately \$100,000 in TMP grants for music education will be distributed to Texas schools through the Texas Commission on the Arts beginning September, 2004. Applications are now being accepted online at TCA.

Artists from across Texas have donated their time and talent to the Project with benefit concerts, appearances and lending songs to TMP's CD series entitled "Don't Mess With Texas Music." Volume One has become the best-selling Texas compilation in history. Volume Two will be released in September, and in July a special edition, "Don't Mess con la Musica de Tejas" featuring an all-star list of generous Latino/Tejano stars will be released..

For more information about the Texas Music Project, please contact Bruce Orr (214.696.1636) or visit their website at <http://www.texasmusicproject.org/>.

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