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Texas Music Project tunes up

Grammy-winning musicians Clint Black and Flaco Jimenez as well as Houston native Beyonce Knowles and her family have been named the 2004 honorary chairmen of the Texas Music Project, a statewide initiative promoting music education.

The 2004 "Don't Mess with Texas Music" public awareness campaign will include an initiative to reach the Latino residents.

Each chairman will donate a song free of charge to the "Don't Mess with Texas Music" compilation CD series. The first edition launched in September and featured Willie Nelson and 20 other all-star Texas artists, such as Stevie Ray Vaughan to Erykah Badu, and became the best-selling Texas compilation in history.

In July, a special edition compilation CD called "Don't Mess with La Musica de Tejas" will celebrate Latino and Tejano music in Texas. Proceeds will be earmarked for music education in schools with large Latino headcounts.

"You never know who the next Mozart will be," Black says. "Schools are not only there for the mathematicians, scientists and historians. Schools are there for those who will carry our art forms into the future.

Bruce Orr, co-founder and executive director of the project, says that after just six months, the Texas Music Project has generated nearly \$500,000 in publicity for music education and will contribute more than \$100,000 to finance music education programs in 2004.

The Texas Music Project unites the Texas music industry with the state government, the Texas Music Educators Association, the Texas Commission on the Arts and the Texas Coalition for Quality Arts Education.