

1 of 1 DOCUMENT

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I Can't Get You Out of My Head named as catchiest tune; Kylie Minogue's I Can't Get You Out of My Head has been named as the catchiest tune in the largest ever experiment of its kind.

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The track was followed in second place by Blurred Lines by Robin Thicke, while Get Lucky by Daft Punk was third.

The experiment into what makes music memorable has been backed by celebrities including Lily Cole and Carol Vorderman, and Science Minister David Willetts, who all nominated their favourite songs.

It is hoped that the findings could help future research into Alzheimer's disease by helping scientists understand our "musical memory" - therefore allowing them to predict the catchiest musical fragments and devise ways to trigger memories, thus providing therapeutic benefits.

In fourth place came Abba's SOS, followed by The Birdie Song by the Tweets, then the Soprano's theme tune Woke Up This Morning by Alabama 3 was nominated in sixth place followed by Aerosmith's Love Me Two Times and The Road to Erogie by Adam Sutherland. In tenth place was another Abba song - this time Dancing Queen.

Computational musicologist John Ashley Burgoyne, who is working on the project, said: "Understanding catchy music is about much more than just a recipe

for next week's number one hit: It's the key to understanding why musical memories last a lifetime.

"Catchy music sticks in your head and lingers there. When you hear catchy music again years or even decades later, all of a sudden the song comes back to and you find yourself singing along in your head."

The songs chosen for the citizen science project, named #Hooked, were voted on in the first round by 700 people, but the Museum of Science & Industry, Manchester (MOSI), which is running the project, hope to get more people involved.

After further rounds of voting volunteers will be invited to play a "name-that-tune" game, aimed at identifying the catchiest part of the tune, how it sounds and why it is so memorable.

Miss Vorderman, the TV presenter, nominated Get Lucky. She said: "Once I hear it I can't stop singing it all day and moving to it too (not very well obviously, but it doesn't stop me trying). The beat is amazing and it's happy and fabulous. It's ridiculously repetitive and memorable and makes me smile... lots."

David Willetts, Minister for Universities and Science, chose Perpetuum Mobile by the Penguin Cafe Orchestra as his favourite catchy tune while Janet Street-Porter picked Nothing Compares 2 U by Sinead O'Connor and Miss Cole, the actress and model, opted for Anyone's Ghost from The National

The project was launched as part of the Manchester Science Festival, which runs until November 3.

Volunteers can still nominate a catchy tune and take part in #Hooked at the project's homepage .

Erinma Ochu, a citizen science pioneer and Wellcome Trust Engagement Fellow, said that the project was about "harnessing the wisdom of the crowd".

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"Much of human history is remembered through songs and as an added bonus, we aim to tap into, evoke and share the musical memories of many generations around the world," she said.

Many dementia support groups already use music, singing and personalised playlists to help sufferers and the results of the study could "have implications for improving the quality of life for people with dementia", said Professor Alistair Burns of the Institute of the Institute of Brain, Behaviour and

Mental Health at The University of Manchester.

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