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## Can't Get You Out Of My Head: Could this Kylie song aid the war on Alzheimer's?

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- Scientists hope results of catchy song poll will help Alzheimer's research
- Aerosmith, The Birdie Song and Robin Thicke also feature in top ten
- Swedish pop stars Abba appear twice in poll results

They are the songs that inspire a love-hate relationship - the ones we love to listen to but then remain stuck in our heads for hours.

And yesterday it emerged Kylie Minogue's aptly-titled Can't Get You Out Of My Head has acquired the title of catchiest song of all time in a poll which saw a string of celebrities nominate their favourites.

Actress and model Lily Cole, TV presenter Carol Vorderman, broadcaster Janet Street Porter and Science Minister David Willetts were among those who nominated tunes they still found themselves humming along to hours after listening to them.

Scientists hope the findings will help future research into Alzheimer's disease, allowing them to use the catchiest musical fragments to trigger memories.

The poll of 700 people was designed to launch the largest ever experiment into what makes music memorable organised by Manchester Science Festival.

Miss Minogue's track was followed closely in second place by Robin Thicke's Blurred lines and Daft Punks summer hit Get Lucky.

In fourth place came Abba's SOS, followed by The Birdie Song by the Tweets and the Soprano's theme tune Woke Up This Morning by Alabama 3 which was nominated in sixth place.

Aerosmith's Love Me Two Times also made the top ten with Abba hitting another place in the chart with Dancing Queen.

DO YOU AGREE WITH THE RESULT?

1. Kylie Minogue: Can't Get You Out Of My Head
2. Robin Thicke: Blurred Lines
3. Daft Punk: Get Lucky
4. Abba: SOS
5. Sinead O'Connor: Nothing Compares 2 U
6. Tweets: The Birdie Song
7. Alabama 3: Woke Up This Morning
8. Aerosmith: Love Me Two Times
9. Adam Sutherland: The Road To Erogie
10. Abba: Dancing Queen

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Speaking at the event 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.'

Professor Alistair Burns, from the University of Manchester's institute of brain behaviour and mental health, believes the project could be revolutionary in helping suffers of dementia preserve and rebuild their memories.

The Alzheimer Society already runs Singing For The

Brain and Professor Burns believes the project could build on helping charities and doctors working with patients.

He said: 'Many dementia support groups use music singing and personalised playlists to help those with failing memory. The results could certainly have implications for improving the quality of life for people with dementia.'

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