

Session 3	Listening in the real world: soundscapes
Time	16:30 – 17:00
Name	Professor Judy Edworthy (University of Plymouth)
Title	Form appears irrelevant when listening to popular song
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Abstract	Two experiments are reported which demonstrate that even though listeners are able to organise a novel song into an order approximating to its intended order, their ratings of liking and predictability of a song is unaffected by whether or not listeners hear that song in the order intended by the composer. In Experiment 1 participants estimated the position of sections of three novel songs within the complete songs. While there was some deviation from the original structure of the songs, the order in which participants placed the sections showed that the participants had reasonably accurate expectations about the sections on the basis of one hearing. In Experiment 2, participants were repeatedly exposed to the songs either in the original format, or in a moderately or highly restructured version and asked to rate their liking and the predictability of the songs. The results indicated that predictability was unaffected by restructuring, though liking was affected by repeated exposure. More detailed analysis revealed differences in response in the intact and restructured versions of the songs at the transitions from one section to another. The results are interpreted within a concatenist framework, where listening is 'in-the-moment' and where listeners are relatively unaware of larger, structural elements.