

ENVIRONMENTAL SOUND AND ITS RELATION TO HUMAN EMOTION

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1 Introduction

Speech, music and environmental sound refer to three specialized areas of acoustic communication and its study, and these areas can be regarded as forming a continuum of human aural experience [7]. Although they have traditionally been studied separately, there are many factors today pointing to their overlap and interaction. Most obviously, contemporary audio technology has blurred their distinctions by making reproduced speech and music into common environmental sounds, often structured by media and individuals as accompaniment environments [1]. The widespread contemporary presence of music-as-environment in public and personal usage can be understood as an extension of the programmed use of music as a background and more recently, foreground presence in both public and commercial spaces. Of the many purposes such music serves, one function is to transfer the emotional aspects of the music onto the

interview. In other interviews, sounds from nature, particularly when heard frequently or on special occasions, became associated with particular life events. Given the power of such personal associations, it is not