effect. Rauscher and her colleagues compared the increase in performance to a gain of several points in one of the sub-scales of a popular IQ test.ĊThe researchers chose K448 for very specific reasons to do with the way they were modelling brain function. It appears they were on to something, as follow-up studies have confirmed that in some children with severe epilepsy, listening to K448 every day can reduce the rhythmic firing of some of the affected brain cells, reducing the chances of a seizure over the long term.ĊMore recent studies with functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) scans have also supported the idea that there may be something specific to this piece of music in its ability to activate the brain.ĊOn the basis of the original 1993 research, there has never been any reason to believe that short-term results of a laboratory test in adults would translate to accelerating the development of a childâĢĻs brain. But the phenomenal public over-reaction to this interesting but highly technical paper gave birth to the belief that just listening to classical music makes children smarter.ĊA detailed but readable account of what happened next is given here but, in short, scientific researchers have been reluctant to make conclusions about the effect of K448 on the brains of listeners while others identified a juicy business opportunity.Ċ