

of a Conclusion<|end_of_text|>What parent can pass up the chance to boost their child's intelligence by putting on some nice classical music? The popular idea that IQ scores can be raised by listening to Mozart is a case study in how a cultural meme can be created almost overnight, if the right societal and economic factors are in place. This particular juggernaut started rolling in 1993 with a fascinating piece of speculative research by Frances Rauscher, Gordon Shaw and Katherine Ky. The researchers had a small group of university students listen to the first 10 minutes of Mozart's Sonata for Two Pianos in D Major (better known to musicians and scholars by its technical handle K448) and then asked them to complete tasks involving judgement of time and space (known as spatiotemporal reasoning). The researchers wanted to test the idea that by priming particular networks of nerve cells in the brain with the music, they could temporarily improve the functioning of that area. And to their surprise, they found the students scored better on the tests after listening to K448. The benefits lasted for around 10 minutes after the music had stopped. There are many limitations to the study but it was a thought-provoking and original finding, especially given the researchers' attempt to describe the strength of the