

Milan, 12th Decemb.,
1772

Your letter¹ of the 4th inst. reached me safely today. We, myself in particular, find ourselves in good health, praise God. During this week, while this letter is on its way to Salzburg, Wolfgang has the most work, [5] for the blessed theatre people are happy to leave everything to the last minute. The *tenor*,² who will come from *Turin*, is from the King's music,³ and is expected on the 14th or 15th. Then 4 *arias* first have to be composed for him. *Sig^{ra}. de Amicis*⁴ commends herself to you both, she is quite exceptionally satisfied with the 3 *arias* which she has received so far. [10] Wolfgang wrote her main *aria*⁵ with such passagework that it is new and quite special and astonishingly difficult. She sings them in a way that necessarily leaves one astonished, and we share the best of friendship and confidence with her. I am writing with a bad quill and ink. Wolfgang has the good ink: he is writing at another table. When you write again, simply write a few words to *Madame d'Aste*⁶ on the envelope. For example: – –

[15] I beg your pardon that I allow myself the liberty, dearest Madam, of enclosing the letters to my husband. I know that they are a constant weight round your neck, and I have been the recipient of many courtesies from yourself and your husband. I commend myself, along with my daughter, [20] to both of you and offer you my modest services here in Salzburg on any occasion where you find I am in a position to be at your service.

This morning there was the first *recitative* rehearsal. The second will be when the *tenor* arrives.

We had constant rainy weather here for some time. For 3 days now it has been quite fine and not cold. [25] We have not yet lit a fire in our *fireplace*. It was a mistake for Wolfgang not to give Fräulein Waberl⁷ the *menuet*,⁸ but one she will forgive him when she takes into account that he is a scatter-brained person and that things easily slip his memory. But why was he quicker to think about Fräulein *Barisani*?⁹ – That has a very natural explanation which it is not necessary to mention. [30] We commend ourselves from the heart to all good friends in Salzburg, both gentlemen and ladies, inside and outside the house, and kiss both of you as often as you wish, with the most solemn assurance that I will be, until I am in the cold grave, unchangeably your
admirer LMzt mp

¹ BD: No. 0268b, lost.

² BD: Bassano Morgnoni, found at short notice to take over the title role in *Lucio Silla*, cf. No. 0269/13 ff.

³ BD: Described in a letter from the second journey, No. 0229/6.

⁴ BD: Anna Lucia de Amicis, leading lady, met the Mozarts in Mainz and Naples, cf. Nos. 0060/29-31; 0188/54; 0269/19.

⁵ BD: No. 11, *Ah se il crudel*. This was the aria sung by Aloisia Weber on the visit to the Princess [Prinzessin] von Nassau-Weilburg in Kirchheimbolanden in 1778 (cf. No. 0405/38-40) and at a concert in Christian Cannabich's house in 1778 (cf. No. 042/77).

⁶ BD: Marianne d'Asti von Asteburg, daughter of Leopold Troger, cf. No. 0224/8-9. Leopold Troger was a court official to the Governor General [Generalgouverneur] in Milan. His sister lived in Salzburg (cf. No. 0160/55), he visited her in 1771.

⁷ "Waberl": a common pet name for Barbara. BD: Either Maria Barbara von Mölk (1756-1823) or Maria Barbara Eberlin (1740-1806). (Von Mölk (1714-1776) was Court Chancellor [Hofkanzler]; Eberlin was court music director until his death in 1762.)

⁸ BD: Probably KV 164 (130a).

⁹ BD: One of daughters of the personal physician to the Salzburg Archbishop, Dr. Silvester Barisani: Maria Josepha (1752 – after 1823); Maria Anna Constantia (1754-1778), known as "Antonia" or "Tonnerl"; Maria Anna Theresia (1760-1812), known as "Nannerl"; Maria Theresia (1761-1854), known as "tresel" or "treserl"; Maria Aloisia (1764-1812), known as "Louise" or "Luisel". Whichever one it was, it was presumably the same one as referred to in No. 0344/8.

How are things going with *Mademoiselle Zezi*,¹⁰ is she learning? Is Nannerl working hard with her? – [35] I ask you to greet Nannerl for me and tell her that she should practice hard, and that she should teach little *Zezi* with diligence and patience. I know that it is to her own advantage if she becomes accustomed to demonstrating something thoroughly and patiently to someone else. I am not writing this without good reason.

¹⁰ BD: Barbara (“Waberl”) Zezi (1764-1820), daughter of Johann Bernhard Zezi (1742-1813), inherited his father's wool and silk goods trade, one of the twin brothers already mentioned in No. 0216/64.