

0369. LEOPOLD MOZART TO HIS SON, MANNHEIM

*À Monsieur / Monsieur Wolfgang Amadé / Mozart Maître de Musi=
que / à / Mannheim / at The Palatine Court*¹

Salzburg, 13th Novb.,

*Mon très cher Fils!*²

1777

[5] I believe I have already written to you³ saying that |: as I requested :| Missliw.⁴ had written a letter⁵ to me *in forma ostensiva*⁶ so as to be able to identify those things he had asked me to find out regarding whether the music he had sent years ago, and that which he had sent now,⁷ had reached High Princely⁸ hands. Thereupon he received a transfer of 25 ducats.⁹ Now he informs me that he received this on the 8th inst. [10] and writes that, on the advice of his doctor, he would stay on in Munich in order to wait longer for his health to recover and then to be able to travel more safely. He adds that he sent a cantata¹⁰ |: *Enea negl' Elisi* :| to be presented to the Elector,¹¹ and has high hopes that it will be performed alongside Monza's opera,¹² because the Elector had given orders [15] that the parts should be written out at once. He furthermore informs me that he wrote to Sgr: Raaff¹³ at my request;¹⁴ that he has received his *scrittura*¹⁵ for the opera on 30th Maggio and for 4th Novembre,¹⁶ and now expects the *scrittura*¹⁷ for you, but this could not arrive in under a month at the earliest, and that he will send it to me in Salzburg [20] as soon as he receives it. To confess the truth, I am not firmly counting on it, for you know how the Italians get themselves out of things and the number of existing promises in Naples. Today I learnt that the Archbishop¹⁸ gave a commission to Brunetti¹⁹ to write to Missl. and order *concertoni*; that will probably come out of the 25 ducats or be on top of it – [25] like the fart or flatulation with the cobbler's boy. – The *Graduale in Contrapunto*²⁰ that pleased me so much was by the famous, long dead *maestro* Lotti.²¹ Dr. Barisani²² has fallen out of favour

¹ = “To Monsieur Wolfgang Amadé Mozart master of music in Mannheim at The Palatine Court”.

² = “My very dear son”.

³ BD: No. 0359/59, 67 ff.

⁴ BD: Joseph Mysliveček (1737-1781), composer. He met the Mozarts in 1770 in Bologna, where he was working on an opera (cf. No. 0171/39); Mozart visited him in hospital in Munich in 1777 on his way to Paris, cf. No. 0347/2.

⁵ BD: No. 0359d, lost.

⁶ = “In ostensive form”.

⁷ BD: No. 0367a.

⁸ “Hochf: Handen”. BD: Hieronymus Joseph Franz de Paula, Count [Graf] Colloredo (1732-1812), Prince-Archbishop [Fürst-Erbischof] of Salzburg from 1772. Employer of Leopold and, for a time, of Wolfgang.

⁹ BD: 25 ducats = 112.5 florins.

¹⁰ BD: Lost.

¹¹ “Churf:”. BD: Maximilian III Joseph of Bavaria.

¹² BD: *Attilia Regolo* by Carlo Monza (c. 1735-1801), text by Metastasio. Leopold and Wolfgang met Monza in Milan in 1770.

¹³ BD: Cf. 0120/54. Anton Raaff (1714-1797), son of a shepherd, originally intended for the priesthood, appeared as a singer in Bonn, Vienna, Paris, Lisbon, Madrid and Naples before a longer period of service in Mannheim and Munich.

¹⁴ BD: No. 0365/32-33.

¹⁵ BD: Contract for the composition of an opera.

¹⁶ BD: Maggio [May], 1778, première of *La Calliroe*. “Novembre”: 1778, première of *L'Olimpiade*

¹⁷ BD: Cf. No. 0347/39-40.

¹⁸ BD: Hieronymus Joseph Franz de Paula, Count [Graf] Colloredo (1732-1812), as above.

¹⁹ BD: Antonio Brunetti († 1786; cf. No. 1015/6 ff.), concertmaster of the Salzburg court music. Mozart's compositions for him include KV 261, mentioned in lines 34-35.

²⁰ BD: Cf. No. 0362/6, 59.

²¹ BD: Antonio Lotti (1667-1740), cf. No. 0369/25-26.

with the Prince.²³ The first reason was that when he was called to Lauffen²⁴ to attend Countess Guntacker Colloredo²⁵ because of her slight indisposition, he did not want to remain there long because of his patients, [30] and was always trying to get back to Salzburg etc. The second: – because he took such trouble upon himself to present the case of the young Doctor Steinhauser²⁶ before the Prince – that is all that is known; perhaps there may be something else in it – in particular, the Archbishop is unrelenting in his displeasure, because Court Counsellor Mölk²⁷ approached him regarding permission to marry, [35] which was immediately turned down; and, because of the death of the Senior Equerry’s wife,²⁸ another application of the kind is to be expected. But in order to prevent this, the Archbishop sent a message to the Senior Equerry: If he is thinking about marrying, he should propose, because of the resulting children, to a woman with money, or not to a young one, but to one who has a good understanding of bringing up children and home economics. [40] That is clear enough! In the meantime, one has to put on a grim face when meeting old Barisani, so that he does not gain the courage to present any requests or to seek a favour. Regarding your giving up your post, Herr Duscheck²⁹ was under the greatest suspicion of having talked you and all of us into it, and, at the same time, there was also conjecture about the Counts Hardik³⁰ and Lizow:³¹ [45] he told me so himself. Yes, if you had left here for Prague, no one would have been able to persuade the Archbishop otherwise, but, as it is, he found he was mistaken. On St. Martin’s Day³² I dined in the priests’ seminary, where they drank to the health of both of you. Nannerl invited herself along to see old Hagenauer,³³ who said to her that she should eat with them whenever I might be dining out. [50] My dear Wolfgang, in your last letter,³⁴ signed on 4th November, on St. Charles’ Day, there is so much confusion that I cannot know when this or that happened. You always write: Today³⁵ I played my 6 sonatas at Canabich’s: – Herr Holzbauer³⁶

²² BD: Cf. No. 0270/28. Dr. Silvester Barisani (1719-1810), personal physician to the Prince-Archbishop of Salzburg, member of an extensive Salzburg family.

²³ “Fürsten”. BD: Hieronymus Joseph Franz de Paula, Count [Graf] Colloredo (1732-1812), as above.

²⁴ BD: Laufen, a small town 20 km north-west of Salzburg. The Archbishop’s autumn residence.

²⁵ “Gräfin”. BD: Maria Isabella Anna Ludmilla, née Imperial Baroness [Reichsgräfin] Mansfeld. Married Franz de Paula Gundacker, Count, later Prince [Graf, later Fürst] Colloredo (1731-1807) in 1788. Sister-in-law of the Archbishop of Salzburg.

²⁶ BD: Dr. Michael Steinhauser († 1814, aged 61), physician, son of Prof. Dr. Johann Philipp Steinhauser (Stainhauser) von Treuberg (1719-1779). Qualified in Vienna in 1777, 1780-1797 in Hallein, later in Salzburg.

²⁷ “Hof-Rath Mölk”. BD: Probably Franz (c. 1748-1800), son of Privy Councillor and Court Chancellor [Geheimrat, Hofkanzler] Franz Felix Anton von Mölk (1714-1776). Cf. Nos. 0158/5; 0310/9 ff. Once an admirer of Nannerl, he seems to have remained unmarried.

²⁸ “Todt der Oberbereiter”. BD: Should be “Oberbereiterin”. Eleonore Weyrother († 1777), née Wagner. Her husband was Gottlieb von Weyrother, Esquire [Edler] (1731-1816), active in the Salzburg riding school and in charge of the court stables.

²⁹ BD: Franz Xaver Duschek (1731-1799), pianist and composer in Prague. His wife Josepha (1753-1824) was a singer. They met the Mozarts in 1777. Mozart wrote two works for Josepha: KV 272 (cf. No. 0337/84); KV 528 (cf. No. 1070/809). Cf. No. 0336b, lost.

³⁰ BD: Adam Franz, Count [Graf] Hartig (1724-1783), Imperial Ambassador [kaiserlicher Gesandter] in Munich. He later made the first contacts for Aloisia Weber’s move to Vienna.

³¹ BD: Cf. No. 0319/37, 39. Johann Nepomuk Gottfried, Count [Graf] Lütow, commander of the fortress in Salzburg, vice-president of the Council of War [Kriegsrat]. Mozart wrote the clavier concerto KV 246 for his wife in 1776.

³² BD: 11th November.

³³ BD: Johann Lorenz Hagenauer (1712-1792), Salzburg merchant. Friend of the Mozarts and their landlord 1747-1773.

³⁴ BD: No. 0363.

³⁵ BD: Cf. No. 0363/56-57.

³⁶ BD: Ignaz Jakob Holzbauer (1711-1783), from 1753 senior music director [Oberkapellmeister] in Mannheim, composer. Stayed in Mannheim rather than moving to Munich with the Elector in 1778.

introduced me to Count Savioli³⁷ today. But today, Sunday, I heard the Mass by Holzbauer. – [55] Mama cannot write³⁸ etc.; we came back home very late from the opera rehearsal.³⁹ – Tomorrow,⁴⁰ after High Mass, I must go to the Electress⁴¹ etc., etc. – – and all this, finally, happened, according to the signature, on 4th November, on St. Charles's Day? – – on this day it will surely have been the opera and not the rehearsal?⁴² – – So, applying sound understanding, [60] you did not write the letter on the same day, but, as I often do, only sealed it then. Accordingly, do as I do. If I lay it aside, I then write Sunday, Monday etc., every time I write something on another day, then one really knows the order in which it happened; sometimes everything can depend on knowing that. – In the meantime, [65] I had written⁴³ to Herr Otto⁴⁴ and Herr Pfeil⁴⁵ in Frankfurt in order to ascertain the situation with the winter concert there, and whether you could perhaps play a well-paid part in it, as Meissner⁴⁶ and Reiner⁴⁷ once did. I immediately received an answer,⁴⁸ likewise written on the 4th Novb., which also reached me at the same time as your letter,⁴⁹ in which Herr Pfeil informed me, in the name of old Otto as well, [70] in the most sincere, most friendly words, that, to his displeasure, nothing can be done. He told me in detail that after the death of Herr Sarasin⁵⁰ and after the decline of Herr Bernat⁵¹, the landlord where the concerts otherwise took place took it upon himself to continue them, but since it did not bring him any return, the whole thing came to an end. [75] One could of course hold a private concert for oneself, only the state of the enthusiasm for music was so poor and the numbers so small that one ran a risk as far as covering expenses go; as far as your own interests are concerned, it would not be advisable for you to travel to Frankfort⁵² on your own initiative, much as he would like to welcome you. If, however, your tour took you there anyway, it would be one of the greatest pleasures for him, [80] and you would find a collection of instruments in his house in which choosing would be painfully difficult. Besides his large clavier by Friderici⁵³ |: like ours :| with 2 manuals, he apparently has an absolutely new, large fortepiano of mahoni⁵⁴ wood, N.B. he describes this to me at length with the strongest expressions of praise. Then a clavichord, also of mahoni wood, that he would not part with

³⁷ BD: Louis Aurel, Count [Graf] Savioli († 1788), supervisor of music at court in Mannheim.

³⁸ BD: Cf. No. 0363/79-80.

³⁹ BD: Cf. No. 0363/81-82.

⁴⁰ BD: Cf. No. 0363/84-85.

⁴¹ “Churfürstin”. BD: Cf. No. 0363/79-80. Elizabeth Maria Aloysia Auguste (1721-1794). Married Karl Theodor, her cousin, in 1742. The clavier/violin sonatas KV 301 (293a); 302 (293b); 303 (293c); 304 (300c); 305 (293d); 306 (300l) are dedicated to her.

⁴² BD: Traditionally the opera would have been on the 4th. But the “gala days” (Cf. No. 366/14-15) may have meant the performance was on the 5th.

⁴³ BD: Nos. 0358a, 0358b, both lost.

⁴⁴ BD: David Otto, organist of the Church of the Discalced Carmelites in Frankfurt. Cf. No. 0065/15.

⁴⁵ BD: Leopold Heinrich Pfeil (1725 or 1726-1792), French teacher, formerly factotum to Goethe’s father. Married a cousin of Goethe in 1746. School director. Ordered several instruments from Friederici in Gera, which had probably led to his contacts with the Mozart family.

⁴⁶ BD VII: Joseph Nikolaus Meissner (c. 1725-1795), son of the Salzburg court musician Niklas Meissner (c. 1691-1760). Employed in Salzburg from 1747, but often on tour. Reputed to sing everything from high tenor to deep bass, but cf. Mozart’s judgement in No. 0453/83 ff. His sister also sang in Salzburg.

⁴⁷ BD VII: Certainly not Felix Reiner (1732-1783), bassoonist, but Franz de Paula Reiner (1749 – c.1800), bass-baritone. Engaged at the Burgtheater in Vienna in 1778. He left in 1780 on the arrival of Johann Ignaz Ludwig Fischer from Mannheim.

⁴⁸ BD: Nos. 0362a, lost.

⁴⁹ BD: Nos. 0363.

⁵⁰ BD: Cf. No. 0065/7. Johann Georg Sarasin († before 1722), banker in Frankfurt.

⁵¹ BD VIII: Perhaps the manufacturer Peter Bernard, who maintained his own orchestra.

⁵² Presumably “Frankfurt”.

⁵³ BD: Musical instrument makers. There were two Friederici brothers, Christian Ernst (1709-1780) and Christian Gottfried (1714-1777). The son was Christian Gottlob Friederici (1750-1805).

⁵⁴ BD: Mahogany.

for 200 florins. [85] It is simply unequalled as a clavichord: the descant, he writes, is as if one could hear the violin softly playing along with it, and the basses like trombones. He furthermore seems to have a huge stock of *fortbien*⁵⁵ because he deals in them. All by Friderici. He regrets that he has nothing by you among his great collection of clavier music and, take note, [90] most of what he has is by Lang⁵⁶ from Koblenz, for whom he also offers to give you letters. Finally, he asks, What, then, are my dearest wife and Mds!:^e daughter doing ? – – etc. – Write to your esteemed son that if he travels via Frankfort, he should not forget me. I will show him how much I loved him as a child and how much I still love him etc. So on this side, once again, little [95] – yes, really nothing can be done. Here, just in case, I enclose a little note once jotted down personally in our room by a Frankfurt merchant so that one can find him in Fr. It seems to read:

– J: Martin d'Orville in Frankft on Mayn in Book Lane.⁵⁷

I am completely at a loss on how to advise the two of you, since now, if there is no prospect [100] of staying in Manheim, you will now go to Maynz⁵⁸; it would only be a sidestep to go to Frankfort if there was something to do there, and then to return from there and go to Coblenz, to the Elector of Trier, who is Prince Clemens of Saxony⁵⁹ – once, placed between him and the Elector⁶⁰ at a banquet in Munich, you composed with a pencil as we travelled home from England. [105] But where after that? – – If you then wanted to go to Bonn, to the Elector of Cologne,⁶¹ where Luchesi⁶² will still be the director of music, it would not even cover the travelling expenses and, furthermore, you go off far to the right onto the direct route through the Netherlands to Holland – – and to Paris?⁶³ What an astonishing route! Where would you get the travelling expenses from? [110] In brief, I did not expect your decision to go straight to Manheim, because you never gave me any indication of that, which you should have done all the earlier, from Augsburg, since I expressly wrote⁶⁴ to you that I would specially give you my opinion on how to conduct yourself in Manheim. I know, of course, that I wrote to you at somewhat greater length,⁶⁵ [115] but my idea was even to send you a written disquisition – a document which you were to hand over to the Elector.⁶⁶ You write that you were summoned to the Electress⁶⁷ after the Mass; that, indeed, would have been an opportunity to ingratiate yourself and, depending on the circumstances, to take the first step in the prepared plan. Yet why should I write a lot here? Who knows whether this letter [120] will still reach you in Manheim. – – If you are still there, I don't

⁵⁵ BD: Fortepianos.

⁵⁶ BD: Johann Georg Lang (* 1724), concertmaster, 1747-1769 in Augsburg, from where he knew the Mozarts, and after 1769 in Coblenz; cf. No. 0051/15.

⁵⁷ “Buchgasse”. BD: Handwriting on the note obviously unclear. Probably Johann Matthäus d’Orville (1730-1799), 1781-1799 chairman of the Frankfurt Stock Exchange [*Börse*]. Involved in the spice trade and banking.

⁵⁸ Mainz.

⁵⁹ “Churf: von Trier”; “Prinz Clemens von Sachsen”. BD: Cf. No. 0064/4-5. Clemens Wenzel, Prince [Prinz] of Saxony (1730-1812), Elector of Trier 1768-1802.

⁶⁰ BD: Elector Maximilian III Joseph of Bavaria (1727-1777), who was also an outstanding viola da gamba player as well as a composer.

⁶¹ “Churf: von Cölln”. BD: Max Friedrich von Königsegg († 1784).

⁶² BD: Andrea Luchesi (1741-1801). Went to Bonn with a wandering opera troupe in 1771 and became music director there in 1774 with a salary of 1000 florins (cf. No. 0369/106). Among the musicians working there was the tenor Johann van Beethoven.

⁶³ BD: Leopold is thus the first to raise the idea of travelling to Paris; the idea with the Netherlands was not very serious. It appears Mannheim was the original limit foreseen for the journey.

⁶⁴ BD: Cf. No. 0350/147-148.

⁶⁵ BD: Cf. No. 0359/91 ff.

⁶⁶ BD: Karl Theodor (1724-1799). Studied in Leyden and Leuven. From 1742 Elector [Kurfürst] of the Palatinate, where he encouraged the arts in Mannheim, and from 30th December, 1777, Elector of Bavaria.

⁶⁷ “Churfürstin”. BD: Cf. No. 0363/84-85. Elizabeth Maria Aloysia Auguste (1721-1794). Married Karl Theodor, her cousin, in 1742. The clavier/violin sonatas KV 301 (293a); 302 (293b); 303 (293c); 304 (300c); 305 (293d); 306 (300l) are dedicated to her.

know how the situation is. – Manheimm has poor organists⁶⁸ – If there is no hope of an firm appointment there, the Elector would then keep you on for a year, or at the least throughout this winter, all the more so because you could present a case to the Electress,⁶⁹ citing the age of your mother and the journey in winter, [125] so arduous for a woman of her years. If, then, you have to stay there, there will be no lack of opportunities to show yourself in every way – and to make yourself popular. – – If you are then discharged from Manheimm in spring or summer, you need only go to Spaa;⁷⁰ there it is swarming with Englishman. In brief! If you do not request a permanant position, [130] an Elector like that, who loves and values talents, will at least be able to provide you, for a time, with an opportunity to show your genius at his court; from his famous court, rays, like those of the sun, spread out through all Germany, yes, through all Europe. Herr Cannabich⁷¹ would not be the worse for that, since you would provide help for his Mdsl.^e daughter⁷² [135] on various points, without impinging on her teacher in any way. Everything would depend on an audience with the Elector and the Electress, and on skilful representations; women, of course, have sympathy for each other – His Highness⁷³ knows – what age means. Count Savioli should not be pushed aside and should be [140] befriended by deferential behaviour; this is duty and policy. All of this is neither intrigue nor deceit, but simply the way to win so much time as to be able to show oneself in every way, for your years and your person would not lead anyone to suspect the greatness of the divine grace that you have received through your talents; in some places, you left before they had been shown even half of your talent. – – I know nothing more that I could say to you now, as I have received no letter today; perhaps I will get it tomorrow with the indirect post, as happens often, but then I cannot give any answer until Monday. – – I repeat: I have no doubt that the Elector [would keep]⁷⁴ you through the winter, [150] and perhaps longer, if Mama would make representations, at least to the Electress, regarding the arduous nature of the journey. Fi ysh mrl tulrl isr sml wfntlr, ysh wfee bl tmkln sn plramlntey wftu m fssd olemry.⁷⁵ I stake my reputation on it. You will both hopefully be well, as we are, praise God. Nannerl and I kiss you both wholeheartedly a million times. [155] As I have been doing the whole time now, I shall write every post-day, and I am as always your good old husband and father

Mozart

I repeat that on leaving any place, you should leave a note behind at the post office about where the letters should be sent. Herr Bullinger⁷⁶ and the whole of Salzburg commend themselves. I am extremely worried about whether this letter [160] will still reach you in Mannheimm. We are now a long way from each other indeed, the letter takes 6 days for the journey, and if you do not write every post-day, we are left a long time not knowing where you are and what you are doing. You need write nothing more than we are

⁶⁸ BD: Cf. No. 0363/59 ff.

⁶⁹ BD: Like the suggestions in lines 138-139 and 150-151, probably humiliating for Wolfgang.

⁷⁰ BD: Spa, today in Belgium, a health resort enormously popular in the 18th century; also visited by Prince-archbishop Hieronymus.

⁷¹ BD: (Johann) Christian (Innocenz Bonaventura) Cannabich (1731-1798). Joined the Mannheim court music at the age of 13. After the death of Toeschi, he was sole music director to the Elector in Munich. The Cannabich family became particular friends of Mozart's in Mannheim in 1777/78.

⁷² BD: Rosina Theresia Petronella (* 1764), known as Rosa, daughter of Christian Cannabich. In 1777 she received lessons from Mozart, who dedicated the clavier sonata in C KV 309 (284b) to her.

⁷³ "S:^e Durchl.":

⁷⁴ Original sentence incomplete.

⁷⁵ Family code: "If you are there for one winter, you will be taken on permanently with a good salary."

⁷⁶ BD: Cf. No. 0331/5 etc. Abbé Franz Joseph Johann Nepomuk Bullinger (1744-1810), Jesuit, private tutor, friend of the Mozart family in Salzburg, where he seems to have arrived between 1774 and 1776. House tutor to Count [Graf] Leopold Ferdinand Arco, later to Count [Graf] Sigmund ("Sigerl") Lodron. Mozart called him "his best of all friends" (cf. No. 0459/1).

well, and nothing else – and my dear wife, who will sometimes be alone at home, could of course do that.