

0850. LEOPOLD MOZART TO HIS DAUGHTER,¹ ST. GILGEN

À Madame / Madame de Sonnenbourg /née de Mozart / à Salzburg
To be delivered to the Tanzmeisterhaus²

Vienna, 12th March, 1785.

I have likewise received your letter³ of the 25th February safely: I hope you will have the *clavichord* brought out to you as soon as the road permits. I still have to battle a little with my chill until I get it out of my body completely. [5] Heinrich's⁴ *concert* was bad, and good: bad because there were so few people there that after the costs of 115 florins only 18 ducats⁵ were left over for him; but good because he played so outstandingly that we can hope for something better in a second *concert*⁶ in two days time, on the 14th. My son's sister-in-law, Frau *Lange*⁷ |: the Weber girl |: [10] who has just been in Munich again, left there for Salzburg yesterday night to give them a sample of her singing, and she and her husband⁸ |: who both played in Munich |: have been joined by the *Bude* woman⁹ and her husband to form a travelling party, and they will therefore be here in Holy Week, *Boude* has an engagement here at the theatre for some time, [15] she will receive 50 ducats¹⁰ travelling allowance, and 25 ducats for each appearance. Herr *Le Brun* and his wife¹¹ have performed an astonishing 3 *concerts*: in the first 1100 florins, in the 2nd 900 florins, and in the 3rd 500 florins. Your brother made 559 florins in his *concert*,¹² which we did not expect because he has offered a *subscription* for 6 *concerts*¹³ at the Mehlgrube¹⁴ extending to more than 150 persons, – [20] each pays 1 sovereign¹⁵ for the 6 *concerts*; besides that he has played so often at other concerts in the theatre as a favour. – As far as the setting of the *Abduction from the Seraglio* for *clavier* is concerned, I can say this much: that it has been given to a certain *Toricella*¹⁶ for

¹ BD: Maria Anna Walburga Ignatia ("Nannerl"), née Mozart, (1751-1829). After her marriage in 1784 her name was Maria Anna von Berchtold zu Sonnenburg. In all letters to Nannerl after her marriage Leopold refers to her as "Frau Tochter" [madam daughter] and to his son-in-law as "Herr Sohn" [esteemed son].

² Address from DME. "The dancing-master's house": BD: The nickname of the house on the Hannibalplatz where the Mozart family had lived since 1773 and where Leopold now finds himself alone after Nannerl's marriage.

³ BD: No. 0848a, lost.

⁴ BD: When Leopold and Nannerl returned from Munich on 14th March, 1781, they took with them Heinrich Marchand, son of the theatre director Theobald Marchand, who had board, lodging and teaching in keyboard, violin and composition in the Mozarts' home for three years. His sister Maria Margarethe ("Gretl") joined him in February, 1782. They left in September, 1784. He was now starting a career as a soloist.

⁵ BD: 1 ducat = 4.5 florins; 18 ducats = 85 florins.

⁶ BD: No details known.

⁷ BD: Aloisia Lange, née Weber, an outstanding soprano whom Mozart met in Mannheim. His first love, who, as he admitted on 25th Dec., 1780 (No. 0596/27), was "not yet a matter of indifference" to him. From August, 1782, Mozart's sister-in-law.

⁸ BD: The actor (Johann) Joseph Lange (1751-1831), engaged by the Burgtheater in Vienna 1770-1810, also painter. Married Aloisia Weber in 1780; six children; they separated around 1795.

⁹ BD VIII, p. 123: Marianne Boudet (1756-1835), actress, engaged at the court theatre in Munich from 1777; married the horn player Martin Lang, an acquaintance of the Mozart family, in 1782.

¹⁰ BD: = 225 florins.

¹¹ BD: Ludwig August Lebrun (1752-1790), oboist first of all at court in Mannheim and then in Munich. Married to the singer Franziska Dorothea Lebrun, née Danzi (1756-1791), likewise employed in the court music.

¹² BD: On 10th March, 1785.

¹³ BD: Cf. No. 0840/16. The concerts took place on 11th, 18th and 25th February and 4th, 11th and 18th March, 1785.

¹⁴ BD: Mehlgrube: a large house which passed into municipal ownership and was for a long time used for storage and regulation of flour. It was later used for balls and concerts.

¹⁵ BD: A coin minted in the Spanish and Austrian Netherlands between roughly 1612 and 1790. Value 13½ florins or 3 ducats.

¹⁶ BD: Toricella had already announced the keyboard reduction in May, 1784, but it seems that only the first act was finished.

engraving. The one *Toricella* has is by your brother, but it is not yet completely finished, – perhaps only the first act: [25] I will make enquiries. *Toricella* has also published 3 *sonatas*,¹⁷ only one of them with a *violin*. Enough! Anything else that has been published I will buy. – Regarding the silk, I will obtain reliable information; according to what I hear, one gets 16 ells *gros di Tour*¹⁸ for 5 lb¹⁹ unravelled silk. But I will certainly find out something more reliable about that. [30] I landed so unexpectedly on the old and young Frau Fischers²⁰ that they were completely startled in their joy and jumped up; I cannot describe their joy to you, and especially when they heard that you are married. – they thought they would never see me again in their lives: so just picture the joy of these honest people, – now they would simply wish that they might see you again during their lifetimes, as they have not seen you anymore since your childhood: [35] I was with her for 2 hours etc. etc. It was just the same at music director *Bono*'s, only Nannerl²¹ has wed. We never get to bed before 1 o'clock at night, never get up before 9 o'clock, eat at 2 to half past. Abominable weather! *Concerts* every day, constant learning, music, composing etc., where should I put myself? – if only the *concerts* were over and done with: [40] it is impossible to describe the all the consternation and turbulence: since I have been here, your brother's *fortepiano* has been carried from the house to the theatre or to another house at least 12 times. He has had a large *set of fortepiano pedals*²² made that is placed under the body of the instrument and is 3 spans longer and astonishingly heavy, is carried to the Mehlgrube²³ every Friday, [45] and was also carried to Count *Cziczi*'s²⁴ and Prince *Kaunitz*²⁵. – Prince *Benjamin Kaunitz*' youngest son *Joseph* has died while ambassador in Spain. Now I will close, it is dark, and then I will drive to the concert in the theatre. All of us kiss all of you a million times from the heart and
I am eternally your sincere father,

[50]

Mozart mp²⁶

Tomorrow there is the *concert* for the widows,²⁷ and on Tuesday the 2nd one, where Heinrich has been asked to play a *concerto*. The *sonata à 2 cembali*²⁸ must be there, more precisely in the cupboard in the big room. It will have become scattered²⁹ amongst other music.

¹⁷ BD: KV 284 (205b), 333 (315c), 454.

¹⁸ BD: *Gros de Tours*, a kind of silk cloth.

¹⁹ lb = lb = pound weight = approx. 0.5 kg.

²⁰ BD: Maria Anna Barbara Fischer, widow of the court cook, and her daughter of the same name, married to the coppersmith Gottlieb Friedrich Fischer. Known to the Mozarts since 1768.

²¹ BD: Guiseppe Bonno (1710-1788), from 1739 court composer in Vienna, later (1774) court music director there. Known to the Mozarts since 1773. His daughter Nannerl was married by 1781 at the latest.

²² BD: This additional instrument, a complete chromatic range of pedals, was part of Mozart's estate, but nothing of it has survived.

²³ BD: a large house which passed into municipal ownership and was for a long time used for storage and regulation of flour. It was later used for balls and concerts.

²⁴ "Gr. Cziczi". BD: Karl, Count [Graf] Zichy von Vásonykö, chamberlain, court adviser, spouse of Mozart's pupil Anna Maria Zichy. He appeared on Mozart's subscription list of 1784.

²⁵ "Fürst Kaunitz". BD: Wenzel Anton, Count [Graf] (1764 Prince [Fürst]) Kaunitz-Rietberg (1711-1794), diplomat, state chancellor [Staatskanzler].

²⁶ mp = "manu propria" = "in his own hand".

²⁷ BD: On the 13th and 15th March, 1785. The first programme included Mozart's cantata *Davidde penitente*, a new symphony by Joseph Haydn, arias sung by Stefano Mandini and Franziska Lebrun, choruses by Florian Leopold Gassmann and Joseph Haydn, and an oboe concerto played by Ludwig Lebrun. The second programme included arias sung by Caterina Cavalieri and Valentin Joseph Adamberger, choruses by Antonio Sacchi and a violin concerto played by Heinrich Marchand.

²⁸ Cembalo = harpsichord. BD: The work is KV 448 (375a).

²⁹ BD: The two separate instrumental parts.