

0551. LEOPOLD MOZART TO HIS SON, MUNICH

*À Monsieur / Monsieur Wolfgang Amadé / Mozart Maître de Musique / à / Munic*

*Mon très cher Fils!*<sup>1</sup>

Salzb., 2<sup>nd</sup> Dec., 1780

If today were a post-day, this, amongst others, would be one [5] of the first letters to make known in Munich the death of the Empress.<sup>2</sup> Today, Saturday the 2<sup>nd</sup>, at half past three in the morning the courier came: but since this letter cannot now arrive before Monday the 4<sup>th</sup>, it is no longer anything new. To what extent this passing will affect the *opera* in Munich I do not know: here it has currently put an end to the Archbishop's<sup>3</sup> journey, [10] for you should know that everyone was already prepared and ready, without a word being said, to go to Vienna; no one should know of it, and yet people did know, 2 days ago that certain polite new cook, Wenzl,<sup>4</sup> had already been sent ahead to Vienna, must now come back again. Just imagine how glad I would have been to see this journey take place! – –

[15] The demise of the Empress will now also save Schickaneder<sup>5</sup> the cost of travel to Laybach<sup>6</sup> and, since the theatre performances have been cancelled there, he will thank God if he can stay here.

The play including your *aria* was yesterday, – the play is very good, the house was full, the Archbishop was also there, the *aria* was well performed, [20] and she<sup>7</sup> sang it well, – as well, in fact, as was possible in the short time for teaching her. For she is also on the lazy side, like the *Ballon*<sup>8</sup> woman. They all left the theatre content, although it lasted until half past 9. – Another bit of news! – – a 61-year-old wedding candidate, |: but not me :| and a 19-year-old bride. And who is it? – – the fat Royal Marshal Count Lodron<sup>9</sup> [25] is going to marry Comtesse Louise Lodron,<sup>10</sup> who is in Count Arco's<sup>11</sup> household. So in this land we are gaining a clavier player and lover and the Archbishop a prize stag.<sup>12</sup> You will perhaps have seen Baron Lehrbach<sup>13</sup> in Munich, for he has travelled to his esteemed uncle<sup>14</sup> to thank him,

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<sup>1</sup> = “To Monsieur Wolfgang Amadé Mozart, music director in Munich / My very dear son!”

<sup>2</sup> BD: Maria Theresia died in the evening on 29<sup>th</sup> November, 1780.

<sup>3</sup> BD: Hieronymus Joseph Franz de Paula, Count [Graf] Colloredo (1732-1812), Prince-Archbishop [Fürst-Erzbischof] of Salzburg from 1772. Employer of Leopold and, for two periods, of Wolfgang. Cf. No. 0263/9. At one point he dismissed both Leopold and Wolfgang, although Leopold was later reinstated. Cf. No. 0328.

<sup>4</sup> BD: Wenceslaus Vater, from 1779 chief cook at court.

<sup>5</sup> BD: Emanuel Schikaneder (1751-1812), actor and theatre director. He took over the Moser troupe in 1778, which he took to Ulm, Stuttgart, Augsburg, Neuburg an der Donau, Nuremberg, Erlangen, Rothenburg ob der Tauber, Laibach, Klagenfurt and Linz 1780. They were in Salzburg 1780/81. He soon got to know the Mozart family, gave them free entry to the theatre every evening, and participated in the air-rifle club. He was important in giving Mozart familiarity with stage practice. In 1786 they performed operas ten times and plays three times in Salzburg.

<sup>6</sup> BD: Maria Theresia died on 29<sup>th</sup> November, 1780. It was no doubt the national mourning that led to cancellation of the performances in Laibach.

<sup>7</sup> BD: “M<sup>lle</sup> Adelheid” (cf. No. 0554/7, 12), a singer who had joined Schikaneder's touring troupe in Salzburg.

<sup>8</sup> BD: Franziska Ballo, actress, worked with various touring companies.

<sup>9</sup> “Hofmarschal Graf Lodron”. BD: Nikolaus Sebastian, Count [Graf] Lodron (1719-1792).

<sup>10</sup> BD: Maria Anna Aloysia (\* 1769), daughter of Hereditary Marshal [Erbmarschall] Ernst Maria Joseph Nepomuk, Count [Graf] Lodron (1716-1779). It was for the Marshal's wife and the two daughters Aloysia and Giuseppina that Mozart wrote the concerto for three claviers KV 242.

<sup>11</sup> “Graf”. BD: Probably Georg Anton Felix, Count [Graf] Arco, at that time Chief Chamberlain [Oberstkämmerer].

<sup>12</sup> BD: Leopold expected the young wife to put horns on her husband.

<sup>13</sup> BD: Franz Christoph, Baron [Freiherr] (later Count [Graf]) von Lehrbach, who gave Mozart a letter of recommendation to his uncle in 1777.

<sup>14</sup> BD: Franz Sigmund Adalbert, Baron [Freiherr] von und zu Lehrbach, Imperial and Royal Ambassador [k.k. Gesandter] in Munich 1777-1787. Cf. No. 0403/13 ff.

since he has brought him from his small Salzburg salary [30] to Imperial service as Senior Master of the Hunt<sup>15</sup> in the part above the Enns,<sup>16</sup> to which the new possessions in Bavaria<sup>17</sup> probably belong, with 3½ or even 4000 florins. It would be very good if the esteemed Baron Lerbach would make you thoroughly well known at his esteemed uncle's, one cannot know what kind of services an Imperial minister of this kind can sometimes render. [35] *Ms<sup>le</sup>: Weber*,<sup>18</sup> too, was brought to Vienna on that occasion by the Imperial minister Count Hardek,<sup>19</sup> then in Munich. Kaunitz,<sup>20</sup> Cobenzl<sup>21</sup> and Lerbach are families which are currently held in high regard there because they are needed in the most important affairs. Perhaps *Baron* Lerbach is still in Munich, you will enquire about that from his uncle. [40] I am very concerned about the opera in Munich: *Basta!*<sup>22</sup> Chance events will happen! I am waiting impatiently to see how it will go. Pass on our compliments to all friends, and with every letter from me always picture in your imagination that I would need an extra page if I were to write down all the regards and compliments which I am meant to pass on. You will have received a letter complete with the enclosure from your sister.<sup>23</sup> [45] The continuation of the performances will follow on soon. Both of us kiss you a million times and, in the consoling hope that you are in better health, I am your sincere father

Mzt

Pimperl<sup>24</sup> sends his compliments, along with Tresel.<sup>25</sup> Initially he thought you were coming every time he heard the house door, he ran to the door, pricked up his ears, [50] and often looked for you in the rooms. *N.B.* You must for once write something for Tresel as well, otherwise there is the greatest outrage. The serving girl is a clown!

*P.S. Fräulein Teres Barisani*<sup>26</sup> came for a lesson with your sister this morning, she will come 3 times every week. She prefers it at our house, [55] she says she has more peace with us than at home. Take care of yourself! Herr Schickaneder thanks you for the *aria*,<sup>27</sup> I also have to get the *aria* *Dentro il mio petto io Sento* written out from the *opera buffa*.<sup>28</sup> He has bought a very fine air-rifle for himself, we will break it in tomorrow. Catherl Gilowsky<sup>29</sup> thanks you for the congratulations on her name-day. Now that will finally an end to it, once again, take care of

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<sup>15</sup> "Oberstjägermeister".

<sup>16</sup> BD: i.e. west of the river Enns, a tributary on the right side of the Danube.

<sup>17</sup> BD: Territories ceded to Austria at the Peace of Teschen, 13<sup>th</sup> May, 1779.

<sup>18</sup> BD: Aloisia Weber (c. 1760-1839 [not 1830, see BD VIII]). She was 17 when Mozart met first her in Mannheim. She was already singing at court (cf. No. 0469/56). The family moved to Munich in 1778 with many of the other court musicians; Aloisia was employed there at the "German Theatre" ["zum deutschen Theater"]. In September, 1779, she was given a leading position at the German Opera in Vienna [Deutsche Oper]. Cf. No. 0405/30. Mozart was initially romantically interested in her, but later married one of her sisters, Constanze.

<sup>19</sup> "Graf". BD: Adam Franz, Count [Graf] Hartig, sometime Austrian ambassador in Munich.

<sup>20</sup> BD: Wenzel Anton, Count [Graf] (from 1764 Prince [Fürst]) Kaunitz-Rietberg (1711-1794), diplomat, from 1753 Austrian State Chancellor [Staatskanzler].

<sup>21</sup> BD: Johann Philipp, Count [Graf] Cobenzl, State Chancellor (1741-1810). Mozart frequented his house in Vienna. Cf. No. 0069/35-37.

<sup>22</sup> = "Enough!"

<sup>23</sup> BD: No. 0547, including a list of theatre performances in Salzburg since Mozart's departure.

<sup>24</sup> BD: The Mozarts' dog in Salzburg.

<sup>25</sup> BD: Therese Pänckl, serving girl in the Mozart household for many years.

<sup>26</sup> BD: Maria Theresia (1761-1864), second daughter of the court physician Barisani (cf. No. 0270/28-29).

<sup>27</sup> BD: Cf. No. 0535/61. KV 196 (No. 3): Podestà's aria from *La finta giardiniera*.

<sup>28</sup> BD: From *La finta giardiniera* KV 196.

<sup>29</sup> BD: "Katel, Katherl, Katerl, Catherl, Chatherl", Katharina Gilowsky (1750-1802), daughter of court surgeon Wenzel Andreas Gilowsky, member of the airgun club of earlier years, frequenter of the Mozart family home. Sometime governess to the children of Leopold Andreas, Count [Graf] Plaz.

yourself! [60] One thing: Count Johannes *Lodron*<sup>30</sup> travelled back to his estates in Silesia today, and took his leave of us in the most friendly way and pressed me very urgently to send his compliments to you.

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<sup>30</sup> “Graf”. BD: Johannes Nepomuk, Count [Graf] Lodron (1727-1786), brother of the Hereditary Marshal mentioned in line 25.