0974. MOZART TO SEBASTIAN WINTER, 1 DONAUESCHINGEN

 \hat{A} / Monsieur / Monsieur Sebastien Winter / Valet de chambre de S: A: S: / \hat{a} / DonauEschingen 2

[Vienna, 8th August, 1786]

Dearest friend! - Companion of my youth!

It was with exceptional pleasure that I received your letter, and only the most urgent business hindered me from answering you earlier. - It is very gratifying that you have approached me personally. I would long since have sent a sample of my humble work to your most honourable Prince³: I would ask you to cast my person at his feet and to thank him most obediently in my name for the present sent to me : |, [10] if I had known whether and what my father⁴ might already have sent to you. – At the end of the letter, therefore, I include a list of the most recently born of my works, from which His Illustriousness⁵ should simply deign to choose so that I can be of service to his Most Elevated Person.⁶ – I shall in future, if it please His Illustriousness, place all my newly finished pieces at his disposal. If I may furthermore be so bold as to make a little musical proposal⁷ to His Illustriousness and to ask you, my friend, to present this to your Prince. - since H. I. possesses an orchestra, his Elevated Person could come into the possession of pieces composed by myself quite specifically for your court alone, which in my humble opinion would be most pleasant. – [20] If H.I. would extend such graciousness to me as to obtain from me a certain number of symphonies, quartets, concertos for different instruments or other pieces as desired throughout the year, and to appoint a certain annual remuneration for it, H.I. would be served more quickly and more fittingly, and I, since it would be secure work, would work in greater tranquillity. – [25] I hope that H.I. will not receive my proposal ungraciously, if it really should not be to the taste of His Elevated Person, for it does in fact spring from a true urge and zeal to be of active service to H.I., which is only possible in a case of this kind if, with support on at least one side, one can dispense with the more menial work. [30] In anticipation of a speedy answer and the orders of your most estimable Prince, I am for ever

Vienna, 8th August, 1786

[35]

your true friend and servant Wolfgang Amadè Mozart mp⁸

di Wolfgango Amadeo Mozart.⁹

¹ BD: Cf. Nos. 0082/35-38; 0728/2. Sebastian Winter (1744-1815), who accompanied the Mozart family on the great journey starting 1762 and left them in Paris (1764) to enter service with the Prince [Fürst] von Fürstenberg. He was later instrumental in ordering music from Mozart for the Prince.

² = "To Monsieur Sebastien Winter, personal valet to His Serene Highness in DonauEschingen".

³ "Fürst". Joseph Maria Benedikt, Prince [Fürst] von Fürstenberg. Residence in Donaueschingen.

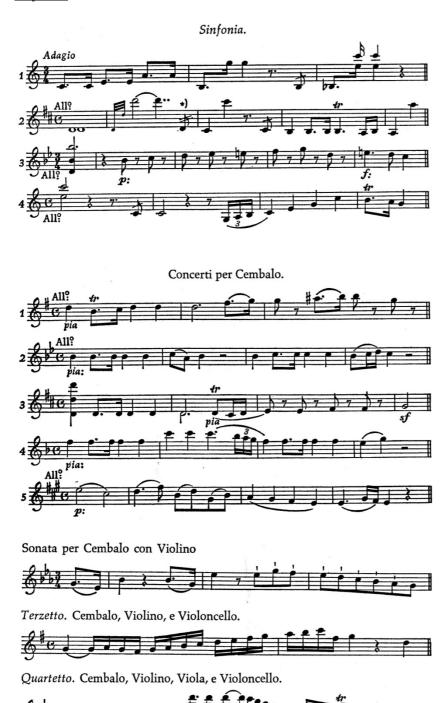
⁴ BD: Cf. Nos. 0782; 0785.

⁵ "Seine Durchl:".

^{6 &}quot;Hochdieselben".

⁷ BD: The proposal remained fruitless.

 $^{^{8}}$ mp = $manu\ propria$ = in his own hand.



 $^{^9}$ BD: the works listed here are, in order: KV 425, 385, 319, 338, 453, 456, 451, 459, 488, 481, 496 and 478. They are thus in no sense the "works most recently born". Crossed out in the original are: KV 385, 453, 456, 481, 496 and 478. Cf. No. 0988.