

Milan, 28th Sept.
1771.

This month has passed with the greatest speed, with an initial wait for the poetry,¹ but then there was always something to do. [5] Our *holiday* and entertainment is starting now, yes, it started already last Tuesday, since Wolfgang had already everything finished on Monday,² and our walks started already on Tuesday. Today is the first rehearsal with all the musicians. Yesterday was the rehearsal with the choruses alone, and specifically without instruments. Say to Herr Spitzeder,³ with our compliments, that Herr *Bianchi* as *bass* [10] and his wife⁴ as first *soprano* are among our chorus singers, and he called on us twice to *recommend* himself, since he is a *bass* in the cathedral music and would like to join the Archduke's⁵ court music, but, as far as I know, the positions as singers have all been assigned and taken up. I can tell you in advance, to my great pleasure, that I hope that Wolfgang's *compositions* will be very well received. [15] Firstly, because *Sgr. Manzoli*⁶ as well as the other singing personages are not only satisfied to the highest degree with their *arias*, but are more eager than we ourselves to hear the *serenata* this evening with all instruments. Secondly, because I know what he has written and what kind of effect it will have, [20] and because it is only too clear that he has written extremely well for both singers and orchestra.

Esteemed Count *Castelbarco*⁷ set off for *Pavia* immediately after his arrival in Milan to pay his respects to his bride *Mezabarba*,⁸ but left the packet⁹ of musical items with his valet, who brought it to where we were staying right away. [25] We will see him tomorrow. Otherwise we are well, praise God, and have constantly beautiful weather. A couple of utterly severe rain storms have stilled the sighing for rain. Now all are happy, but everyone is wishing for good weather on the day of the wedding.¹⁰ I would be very pleased if you would say something in all your letters to me about how the weather is with you. I will do the same for you. [30] Keep well, both of you. We kiss you many 10 000 000 000 times and I am as always your

Mozart.

Our compliments to all Salzburg.

¹ BD: Cf. No. 0242/11. The text for Mozart's serenade, *Ascanio in Alba* KV 111, had been sent to Vienna for approval.

² BD: 23rd September, 1771.

³ BD: Cf. No. 0041/17. Franz Anton Spi(t)zeder (1735-1796), studied at Salzburg university, tenor in the Salzburg court music, later a favourite of the Archbishop and an influential figure in the court music. Sang in Mozart's *Die Schuldigkeit des Ersten Gebots* KV 35 and *La Finta semplice* KV 51 (46a).

⁴ BD: Perhaps the Francesco and Marianna Bianchi who took part in a concert in 1762 in which Wolfgang also played: cf. No. 0034/34. Frau Mozart and Nannerl would therefore have known them.

⁵ BD: Erzherzog [Archduke] Ferdinand, son of Empress Maria Theresia. Mozart was writing music for his upcoming wedding in Milan.

⁶ BD: Giovanni Manzoli (1725?-1780?), soprano castrato from Florence, in Milan singing the leading part in Mozart's composition. He gave Wolfgang singing lessons free of charge, cf. No. 0099/76. Cf. 0095/11, 12.

⁷ "H: Gr: Castelbarco". BD: Also mentioned in Nos. 0218/49 and 0246/52-54.

⁸ BD: "Half-Beard": not identified. Some private joke?

⁹ BD: Leopold had obviously arranged for him to bring music from Salzburg.

¹⁰ BD: Cf. Nos. 0236/15; 0239/15. The upcoming marriage of Maria Beatrice Ricciardi with Archduke Ferdinand, the son of Maria Theresia. The marriage would bring Modena under the control of the Habsburgs, thus forming a connection between Tuscany and Lombardy. The suggestion may have come from the Governor general of Milan, Count Firmian, but more probably from Maria Beatrice herself after a concert given by Mozart on 18th February, 1770 (cf. No. 0155/41-42).