

Milan, 19th Octob.,
1771

Herr *Marcobruni*¹ commends himself, he is here with me, and at this moment we will go to the theatre, for on the 16th there was the *opera*² and on the 17th the *Serenata*,³ [5] which was received so astonishingly well that they have to *repeat* it today. The Archduke⁴ recently ordered 2 *copies*. All *noble gentlemen*⁵ and other people speak to us continually on the street to *congratulate* Wolfgang. In short, I feel sorry that Wolfgang's *serenade* has vanquished *Hasse's*⁶ *opera* so thoroughly that I cannot describe it. Your last letter⁷ and Nannerl's *postscriptum* will have my answer with the next post. [10] You will see⁸ Italy with greater pleasure than would be the case now amid this abominable noise. *Addio*. We kiss both of you many 10000 times. I am as always your
Mzt mp⁹

Pray! And thank God!

Our compliments to all friends, both gentlemen and ladies.

[15] Herr von Troger¹⁰ commends himself particularly to you and Nannerl, who are sighing for Milan so much.

¹ BD: Francesco Antonio Marcobruni, director of the post office in Rome; he had at one stage studied in Salzburg.

² BD: *Ruggiero ovvero L'eroica gratitudine*, text by Metastasio. Hasse's last opera. Cf. No. 0239/17.

³ BD: Cf. No. 0242/11. Mozart's serenade, *Ascanio in Alba* KV 111. Cf. No. 1212/324-325. BD V, p. 308, gives the final cast list (Persons: Venus; Ascanio; Silvia, a nymph descended from Hercules; Aceste, a priest; Faun, one of the principal shepherds).

⁴ "S. K. H: Erz. Ferdinand". BD: Erzherzog [Archduke] Ferdinand, son of Empress Maria Theresia and bridegroom in the wedding being celebrated in Milan.

⁵ "Cavalier".

⁶ Johann Adolf Hasse (1699-1783), in Vienna from 1764. Hasse admitted in a letter to Abbé Ortes (cf. No. 0235/7, 19) on 30th October, 1771, that the opera was not a success. His doubts before the performance are captured in a letter of 5th October, 1771.

⁷ BD: No. 0249a, lost.

⁸ BD: Leopold now seems convinced that Wolfgang will find employment in Italy.

⁹ mp = manu propria = in his own hand.

¹⁰ BD: Cf. No. 0155/41. Secretary to the governor general of Lombardy, native of Salzburg.