

Milan, 16th November,
1771.

Your letter¹ of 8th November has reached me. I thought I was certain to depart on the 18th, but His Royal Highness the Archduke² still wants to speak to us³ [5] after they get back from Varese,⁴ which will be in a week: our stay here will consequently certainly last for 10 further days. Patience! We will surely see each other soon, God willing. We are well, praise God. We both regret the grievous circumstances in which Herr von Vogt⁵ finds himself. Both of us have already prayed to God for him [10] and, if he is still alive, as I hope, we commend ourselves to him and wish him a good recovery and acceptance of God's will.

I thank all good friends, both gentlemen and ladies, for the sincere congratulations.⁶ I owe an answer to Herr von Hefner,⁷ I thank him most obediently for the moment, with my compliments. – – My head is full, [15] and I have more to think about than you two can imagine. That the *serenata*⁸ received exceptional applause – that is quite true. But I very much doubt whether His High Princely Grace⁹ will remember Wolfgang when a salaried post¹⁰ becomes free. – – Now I must finish, for I still have to write a letter to Verona. Now send your letters only to Verona, to Ill^o: Sr: Pietro Lugiatì;¹¹ he will deliver them to me. [20] Keep well, we kiss you both 10 000 000 000 times and I am as always your

Mozart mp¹²

¹ BD: No. 0254c.

² “Erzherzog”. BD: Archduke Ferdinand, son of Empress Maria Theresia, who had just married in Milan. He must have communicated with his mother about the possibility of employing Mozart at the court in Milan. BD V, p. 311 quotes from his mother's reply (in French). The reply said that he did not need “a composer or useless people”, but if he has pleasure in it, she will not prevent him. One should never “take on such useless people or give them titles”, since this debases service “when these people run around the world like tramps.” All the hopes expressed by Leopold in recent letters were thus shattered.

³ BD: The audience took place on 30th November, 1771.

⁴ BD: About 60 km from Milan, with a palace belonging to the d'Este (his bride's) family.

⁵ BD: Personal valet [“hochfürstlicher Leibkammerdiener”] to the Prince-Archbishop, ennobled in January, 1766. Cf. No. 0202/59.

⁶ Leopold's name-day and birthday was the 15th of November.

⁷ BD: Heinrich Wilhelm von Hef(f)ner († 1769), son of Franz Friedrich von Hef(f)ner, the city legal adviser in Salzburg. At school and university he had acquitted himself well onstage. Cf. No. 0241/54.

⁸ BD: *Ascanio in Alba* KV 111, written for the wedding celebrations in Milan. Cf. No. 0239/15.

⁹ “S^r: Hochf: Gdn.”. BD: The Prince-Archbishop of Salzburg, Leopold's employer.

¹⁰ BD: As third music director at the Salzburg court, Wolfgang was unsalaried. Cf. No. 0339/98-99.

¹¹ BD: the “most illustrious gentleman” Pietro Lugiatì (1724-1788), provincial tax official. Helpful to the Mozarts in a variety of ways.

¹² mp = manu propria = in his own hand.