

Salzb., the last day of *Sept.*  
1777*Mon très cher Fils!*<sup>1</sup>

This morning there was a rehearsal in the theatre, Haydn<sup>2</sup> had to write the intermezzos between the acts for *Zayre*.<sup>3</sup> As early as 9 o'clock, they were coming in one after another, [5] after 10 o'clock it started, and it was not finished until towards half past 11. Of course, there was always Turkish music<sup>4</sup> amongst it, then also a march. Countess von Schönborn<sup>5</sup> also came to the rehearsal, driven in a chaise by Count Czernin.<sup>6</sup> The music is said to fit the action very well and to be good. Now, although there was nothing but instrumental music, the court clavier had to be brought over, [10] for Haydn played. The previous day, Hafeneder's music for the end of the university year was performed by night<sup>7</sup> in the Noble Pages' garden<sup>8</sup> at the back, where Rosa<sup>9</sup> lived. The Prince<sup>10</sup> dined at Hellbrunn,<sup>11</sup> and the play started after half past 6. Herr von Mayregg<sup>12</sup> stood at the door as commissioner, and the 2 valets Bauernfeind and Aigner collected the tickets, the nobility had [15] no tickets, and yet 600 had been given out. We saw the throng from the window, but it was not as great as I had imagined, for almost half the tickets were not used. They say it is to be performed quite frequently, and then I can hear the music if I want. I saw the main stage rehearsal. The play was already finished at half past 8; consequently, the Prince [20] and everyone had to wait half an hour for their coaches. Half a company of grenadiers was placed on the square for a parade, and the Prince came through the garden. The 1<sup>st</sup> October. This morning, the Fräuleins von Schiedenhofen<sup>13</sup> and Kronach<sup>14</sup> and Nannerl went to Maria Plain<sup>15</sup> to pray for us all, and they have just come back now at half past 10, and

---

<sup>1</sup> = "My very dear son!"

<sup>2</sup> BD: Johann Michael Haydn (1737-1806), brother of Joseph. Employed at court in Salzburg from 1763. During his Vienna years, Mozart frequently asked for music by Michael Haydn to be sent from Salzburg so that he could perform it at van Swieten's. Michael Haydn is known to have spoken very positively about *The Abduction from the Seraglio* after its Salzburg performance. On a personal level relationships were difficult, possibly because of his inclination to drink.

<sup>3</sup> BD: Cf. No. 0337/13. *Zaire* by Voltaire, intermezzi by Michael Haydn, who completed the music on 29<sup>th</sup> September. Leopold gave his evaluation of it in No. 0344/24 ff.

<sup>4</sup> BD: In keeping with the subject matter.

<sup>5</sup> "Gräfin v Schönborn". BD: Cf. No. 322/22. Eugen Franz Erwein, Count [Graf] Schönborn (1727-1801) married Maria Theresia, Princess [Prinzessin] Colloredo (\* 1744), sister of Archbishop Colloredo of Salzburg, in 1776. Archbishop Colloredo travelled to Vienna for the wedding in June, 1776.

<sup>6</sup> BD: Johann Rudolf, Count [Graf] Czernin, frequently mentioned in the letters (cf. No. 0340/7). His sister was Countess [Gräfin] Antonie Lützow. He was married to a sister of the Prince-Archbishop. In 1776 he offered Mozart a pension of 20 ducats (90 florins) per year in return for compositions including, initially, a symphony (cf. No. 0565/31 ff.). It is doubtful whether this pension was ever paid.

<sup>7</sup> BD: Performed by departing graduates to teachers and to the Prince-Archbishop.

<sup>8</sup> BD: The "Edelknabengarten" was a garden in a courtyard by the Franciscan church.

<sup>9</sup> BD: The Italian portrait painter Maria Rosa Barducci married court sculptor Johann Baptist Hagenauer in Salzburg Cathedral in November 1764. They left Salzburg in 1774.

<sup>10</sup> "Fürst". BD: Hieronymus Joseph Franz de Paula, Count [Graf] Colloredo (1732-1812), Prince-Archbishop since 1772. Studied in Vienna, canon in Salzburg 1747, then to the Collegium Germanicum in Rome. Priest in Stanz, Austria, Canon in Passau and provost of Saint Moritz in Augsburg. 1761 Prince-Bishop of Gurk.

<sup>11</sup> Hellbrunn, the Prince-Archbishop's summer residence by Salzburg.

<sup>12</sup> BD: Johann Kajetan Mayr von Mayregg (1721-1797), oldest seneschal [Truchsess] (since 1740), father of the "nannerl marrik" named in No. 0321/58. Royal chamber secretary [Hofkammersecretary].

<sup>13</sup> BD: Maria Anna Aloisia von Schiedenhofen (1760-1831), sister of Johann Baptist Joseph Joachim Ferdinand von Schiedenhofen (1747-1812), who made a successful career in the state administration of Salzburg. They accommodated mother and daughter Mozart in Schloss Triebenbach during the travels of Leopold and Wolfgang.

<sup>14</sup> BD: Maria Anna Kranach, companion to Maria Anna Aloisia von Schiedenhofen.

<sup>15</sup> BD: Pilgrimage church just outside Salzburg.

now [25] the Kronach's Nannerl is putting Nannerl's hair in order. -- Isn't Baron Dirnitz<sup>16</sup> in Munich? -- He will no doubt be on his country estate. What, then, Herr von Dufraisne the clergyman<sup>17</sup> doing? -- Yesterday, completely unexpectedly, I received some lines from Misliwetcek.<sup>18</sup> I will copy out the whole letter here.

<sup>19</sup>*Several posts ago, I received information from Naples that, because of various most weighty commitments, [30] they have had to take a certain Maestro Valentini for the Carnival opera. They have agreed, however, to pay 100 gigliati<sup>20</sup> to your esteemed son for an opera for the coming year.<sup>21</sup> But the impresario, that is, Sgr. Don Gaetano Santoro,<sup>22</sup> wishes that you, sir, should write to him that he cannot come for less than 100 cigliati, but that he is ready to accept whatever opera is allotted to him for the 100. I am indeed much unsettled by [35] such impresarios who wish that I should at all costs write two for the coming year, and at the moment I am waiting for the contract. I have already drawn the worst lots, but no matter. I am known in Naples, and I have written six of them, therefore I know that they wish that I should write the first, and probably the third. I always advise, as a safer option, the Carnival opera. God knows if I will [40] be able to go, but, since they want it this way, I will accept the contract. If I cannot do it, I will send it back. You, sir, will therefore be informed by me which operas are allotted to me. And then you will be able to write to Sgr: Don Gaetano Santoro immediately concerning the price and the opera, or send me the letter, which I will send to him. In the meantime a thousand greetings to all your esteemed family, and I allow myself the honour etc: etc:*

You see [45] from this letter that I in fact cannot respond immediately to this letter, as I have to wait anyway to hear from him which operas he is due to write. I perceive from this letter that he does not yet know anything about your being in Munich. Accordingly, I am waiting for a letter from you, which I hope to receive tomorrow morning so as to be able then to reach a further [50] decision. One can be guided by the circumstances: the journey to Naples is too long and too expensive, especially if one moves even further away. We now have a quite different aim and if you should be so fortunate, which can hardly be expected, as to gain a position in Munich, one cannot then run away from it in the very first year. But one could then formulate the letter to [55] Sgr. Santoro in such a way that it serves your honour and places you securely for being given an opera in Naples any other year, when it is more convenient and possible. If, in the meantime, Herr Misliwetcek learns, or has learnt, that you are in Munich, it must and can always serve as your excuse, if you do not wish to visit him, that [60] Mama has forbidden it, and that, furthermore, other people have persuaded you of the same thing etc. etc. It is indeed a vexatious point, but one which he himself must understand if he thinks about it reasonably, and over which he cannot take umbrage with a mother. Even if he can travel to Naples, what kind of figure would the poor man cut in the theatre now without a nose?<sup>23</sup> -- Doch propria culpa haec [65] acciderunt.<sup>24</sup> Whom can he make responsible other than himself and his disgusting life? What shame in front of the whole world! Everyone would have to flee away from him and

---

<sup>16</sup> "B: Dirnitz". BD VIII: Thaddäus Wolfgang von Dürniz (1756-1807).

<sup>17</sup> BD VIII: Franz de Paula Dufresne (?), c. 1757-1792, court councillor [Hofrat] from 1777, cf. No. 0333/53-54. His father was probably Franz Ignaz, actual court chamber councillor [wirkl. Hofkammerrat] and commissioner, ennobled 1765.

<sup>18</sup> BD: Joseph Mysliveček (1737-1781), composer. He met the Mozarts in 1770 in Bologna, where he was working on an opera (cf. No. 0171/39); he was being treated in hospital in Munich for venereal disease, which explains the excuse outlined by Leopold in lines 59-60.

<sup>19</sup> Quotation entirely in Italian.

<sup>20</sup> BD: gigliati = ducats. 100 ducats = 450 florins; at that time a standard fee for writing an opera.

<sup>21</sup> BD: This plan was never realised.

<sup>22</sup> BD: Impresario in Naples.

<sup>23</sup> BD: Cf. No. 0347/122-123.

<sup>24</sup> = "It is his own fault that these things have happened".

abhor him; that is a misery truly brought on oneself! – Thursday, 2<sup>nd</sup> Octob. Today I was in the Thursday Mass. And there I learnt that the play<sup>25</sup> will be repeated on Saturday, and there will be a ball<sup>26</sup> on Sunday, probably [70] a ball with admission charge. The entr'acte music by Haydn was so good that the Archbishop did him the honour of saying at table that he would not have believed that Haydn was capable of writing such a thing: instead of beer, he should drink nothing but burgundy. But what manner of speech is this? Honour and dishonour! Yet another – – wash the fur for me<sup>27</sup> etc. etc. After the Mass, I went [75] straight home to wait for a letter from both of you. Now it is 12 noon, but still no letter. In the meantime, I would like to say to you that I am in much better health but still have a slight cough and stinking mucus – and this is good. 2 days ago I was also feeling, in addition to that, a little rheumatism in my left shoulder. I kept myself [80] warm, and yesterday afternoon I went out walking with Nannerl and little Pimpes<sup>28</sup> in the very warm sun, letting myself be burnt by the sun, gulping down the good air and feeling so well that I wished to get into a coach and travel away. The Archbishop was just driving out of the Mirabell Gate<sup>29</sup> with his family as we came down from the shooting range<sup>30</sup> [85] by the big shed. Beside him sat Count Gundacker.<sup>31</sup> We made a reverence to him, but, before the rest followed, we were already past the Gate. They all drove to the new building<sup>32</sup> to admire the Prince's big, expensive garden palace. Count Khünburg,<sup>33</sup> the Senior Stablemaster,<sup>34</sup> expressly sends his compliments to you both. His Excellency the Royal High Steward<sup>35</sup> is here, but I have not yet [90] called on him, for he is at Leopoldskron castle<sup>36</sup> all day. Tomorrow, being a fasting day, he dines at home and I will go to him there.

I have just come from the litany, for tomorrow is *Maria de Mercede*,<sup>37</sup> when, as Herr von Benike<sup>38</sup> tells me, Prince Breiner<sup>39</sup> will host the ball. As it is now past 4 o'clock in the afternoon and there is no more hope of a letter, I will close and then go [95] for a walk

<sup>25</sup> BD: Cf. line 3.

<sup>26</sup> BD: Cf. line 93.

<sup>27</sup> = "Wash the fur for me but don't make it wet." BD: Cf. this phrase in No. 0335/39.

<sup>28</sup> BD: The family dog, cf. No. 0291/37.

<sup>29</sup> BD: The city gate near the Mirabell Palace.

<sup>30</sup> BD: A shooting range attached to a popular inn, today Wieserstrasse 1.

<sup>31</sup> "Graf". BD: Franz de Paula Gundacker, Count [Graf] Colloredo (1731-1807), eldest brother of the Archbishop of Salzburg. From 1788 Imperial Vice- Chancellor [Reichsvizekanzler] and Prince [Fürst]. His wife was Maria Isabella Anna Ludmilla, née Reichsgräfin Mansfeld.

<sup>32</sup> BD: In 1771 Hieronymus (not yet Prince-Archbishop of Salzburg, but a cathedral canon) rebuilt an older property to form a single-floor garden house.

<sup>33</sup> "Graf". BD: Leopold Joseph Maria, Count [Graf] Kuenburg (1740-1812), Royal and Imperial Chamberlain [k.k. Kämmerer], Privy Councillor [Geheimer Rat], from 1764 Chief Stablemaster [Oberstallmeister] in Salzburg.

<sup>34</sup> BD VIII p. 84: Text corrected to "Oberstst."

<sup>35</sup> "S E: Obersthofmeister". BD: Franz Lactanz, Count [Graf] Firmian (1712-1786), member of a very extensive and influential Tyrolean family (cf. BD V, p. 8), occupied various positions at court, ultimately that of Royal High Steward [Obersthofmeister].

<sup>36</sup> BD: Schloss Leopoldskron, country seat of the Royal High Steward [Oberstallmeister], Franz Lactanz, Count [Graf] Firmian. Built in 1736 by Archbishop Leopold Anton Eleutherius, Count [Graf] Firmian (1727-1744).

<sup>37</sup> BD: The Feast of Our Lady of Mercy should have taken place on the 24<sup>th</sup> September, but was obviously changed in Salzburg because of the St. Rupert celebration on the same day.

<sup>38</sup> BD: Johann Michael Boenike, consistory secretary and notary. Called to Salzburg from Würzburg in 1773. He represented the so-called "religious enlightenment" and was the author of the pastoral letter of 20<sup>th</sup> June, 1782, marking the 1200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the archbishopric, or the arrival of Saint Rupert. The letter criticised purely external expressions of faith and superfluous ornamentation of churches, recommended reading the Bible and German hymns, sought to restrict the veneration of Mary and the saints, and criticised abuses with indulgences and in brotherhoods and pilgrimages.

<sup>39</sup> "Fürst Breiner". BD: Franz Xaver, Baron [Freiherr], later Prince [Fürst], Breuner (\* 1723), received the rank of Prince so that he could retain his rank as Bishop of Lavant after being appointed Bishop in Chiemsee, a post he held 1786-1797.

with Nannerl and Pimpes. Everyone sends compliments, especially Frau Hagenauer,<sup>40</sup> with whom I have just spoken in the street and who invites us daily by message and in person. I and Nannerl kiss you both 1 million times, wish you 1000fold good fortune and, especially, good health and, in the hope of perhaps receiving a letter tomorrow, I remain the same old straw weaver<sup>41</sup> [100] without wife and child,

Mozart

If you can perform anything in front of the Elector,<sup>42</sup> you should or could at least receive a present if otherwise you have no opportunities to do anything.

---

<sup>40</sup> BD: Wife of Johann Lorenz Hagenauer (1712-1792), Salzburg merchant. Friend of the Mozarts and their landlord 1747-1773.

<sup>41</sup> BD: "Straw widow" is a common term for a wife left at home alone. Leopold is playing on this.

<sup>42</sup> BD: Elector Maximilian III Joseph of Bavaria (1727-1777) was an outstanding viola da gamba player and also a composer.