

0346. LEOPOLD MOZART TO HIS SON, AUGSBURG

*À Monsieur / Monsieur le Chevalier Wolfgang / Amadè Mozart Maître
de Musique / à / Augspourg*¹

*Mon très cher Fils!*²

Salzburg, 9th Octob., 1777

In the expectation that you have left Munich,³ I am writing to Augsburg⁴ [5] and enclose for you herewith a letter to Herr Stein,⁵ in which I most heartily recommend to him that he should organise one or two concerts and also inform him that you will tell him in person of the abominable deed of Salzburg.⁶ Do honour to yourself on his organ,⁷ he considers it a very good one; it is good, too, and then write to me saying what instruments he has. You probably did not practice the violin⁸ at all the whole time [10] you were in Munich? I would very much regret that: Brunetti,⁹ now, praises you terribly! And when I recently said that you also play the violin *passabilmente*,¹⁰ he shouted out loud: *Cosa? Cazzo! se suonava tutto! questo era del Principe un puntiglio mal inteso, col suo proprio danno*.¹¹ Herr Glatz¹² will deliver to you a pair of white silk stockings which I have managed to look out for you. [15] I had such stockings on at the ball and found that they are very tight. There is also a book of small music-paper¹³ with it, I put it into the package as well. If you perhaps want to write a prelude for your sister,¹⁴ this paper is finer and can be sent more readily in a letter. When you speak with Herr Stein, you must avoid any opportunity to inform him of our instruments [20] from Gera, for he is jealous of Friderici,¹⁵ and if there is no way of sidestepping the matter, then say that I took the instruments over from Colonel Count Prank¹⁶ when he left Salzburg because of the falling

¹ = “To Monsieur Wolfgang Amadè Mozart, Knight, Master of Music in Augsburg”. BD: This was the first time that Leopold used the title “Knight” (given by the Pope on 4th July, 1770) in an address. To impress his relations in Augsburg?

² = “My very dear son”.

³ BD: Wolfgang and his mother did not leave until the afternoon of 11th October, 1777. Cf. No. 0349/5.

⁴ BD: Enclosed with the letter to his brother Franz Alois, cf. Nos. 0348/6; 0350/2.

⁵ BD: Johann Andreas Stein (1728-1792), built organs and keyboard instruments. Active successively in Strasbourg, Augsburg and Vienna. Mozart greatly appreciated his pianofortes. He appears frequently in the letters, esp. Nos. 0349/32 ff. and 0352/61 ff. His annual production was typically between 20 and 25 instruments, costing 300 florins and more each. His instruments were owned by many of Mozart’s noble acquaintances.

⁶ BD: Cf. Nos. 0337/35-36; 0329/29. Wolfgang and Leopold were dismissed from service, although Leopold was later reinstated.

⁷ BD: At a monastery in Augsburg, cf. No. 0331/65. Finished in 1755 at a price of 5700 florins.

⁸ BD VII: It is clear from the letters (e.g. No. 0430/160) that Mozart always had a violin case with him on his journeys. Cf. No. 0345/54 ff.

⁹ BD: Antonio Brunetti († 1786; cf. No. 1015/6 ff.), concertmaster of the Salzburg court music. Mozart’s compositions for him include KV 261, mentioned in lines 34-35.

¹⁰ = “Passably”.

¹¹ = “What? Prick! He played everything! This was ill-conceived obstinacy by the Prince, to his own loss.” [Cf. BD VII].

¹² BD: Cf. No. 0331/36. Johann Christoph Glatz, born in Lower Hungary, married an Augsburg woman in 1746.

¹³ BD: The small format often used by Mozart on his journeys.

¹⁴ BD: She was waiting for the short prelude leading from C to B^b (cf. Nos. 0337/125-126; 0345/68; 0346/16-17; 0347/199-200).

¹⁵ BD: Stein was in fact on friendly terms with the Friederici brothers, Gottfried (1714-1777) and Christian Ernst (1709-1780); the latter was godfather to one of Stein’s daughters.

¹⁶ “Obriß graf Prank”. BD: Leopold, Count [Graf] Prank (1728-1793). 1759 colonel, 1763 director of the Salzburg war council; retired in 1766 and soon left Salzburg, probably because of his “falling sickness”.

sickness.¹⁷ All other details would be unknown to you, since, still too young, you did not pay attention to these things. Yesterday, Frau von Gerlichs¹⁸ was with us *en visite*¹⁹ [25] for some four short hours, she commends herself quite terribly. The marriage²⁰ of the apothecary's Tresel with Herr Strasser²¹ is not at all to the liking of the esteemed Court Apothecary and his wife:²² if she had remained single, she would have had hopes of the inheritance. Nor, however, is it to the taste of the Eberlins' Waberl.²³ She says that 2 dead, melancholy clowns are coming together. Today the Archbishop²⁴ is going [30] to Lauffen²⁵ for 12 or 14 days. [30] Schönborn's wife²⁶ is away, and the gift for your sonatas has also gone with her. I am still finding one small thing or another for you: the two of you should be happy when you get further away, otherwise I will always be sending something on to you so that your baggage always grows bigger. There is still a whole musical score for the court wind instruments here,²⁷ and the score of the *adagio* for *Brunetti*,²⁸ [35] since the other one was too studied for him. Perhaps I will write it on small paper and send it on bit by bit. I don't know if you will be able to do more than one concert in Augsburg, the people of Augsburg have now been buried under concerts. I have just read in the newspaper that the violoncellist Baumgartner²⁹ and 4 other persons gave a concert together. [40] = = If you perform anything, especially clavier concertos, then take care that you check if you have all the parts back together at the end of it, as you do not have the score with you. = Now, if you should see that more than one good concert is not feasible in Augsburg, it would be more advisable not to stay too long. I must finish, the post leaves [45] soon. We were not expecting any letter today because the Munich people always give such things to the Reichenhall post, which does not come till tomorrow. Take care of your health! We feel well, with me everything seems to get better by the day, I sleep pretty well, the coughing is abating, and my appearance has improved. Only you and Mama still have a place in my thoughts. We both kiss – – – – the two of you [50] many 10 000 000 000 000 times and I am as always your faithful, honest husband and father
Mozart
I hear that Haydn³⁰ apparently received only 6 Bavarian thalers³¹ from the Archbishop for the beautiful music.³² [55] (*Che generosità!*³³)

¹⁷ = "epilepsy".

¹⁸ BD: Cf. No. 0339/63. Anna Maria Gertrud von Gerlichs, née Edlinger von Edlhofen, widow of Privy Counsellor [Gehiemrat] von Gerlichs (†1763), died 9th June 1785 aged over 80.

¹⁹ = "on a visit".

²⁰ BD: Mentioned in No. 0343/66, 67.

²¹ BD: Johann Nikolaus Paul Strasser, Registrar to the Court Council [Hofrats-Registrator]. His first marriage (1764) was to Maria Franziska Veronika Eberlin (1735-1766), daughter of the Salzburg court organist.

²² BD VIII: Maria Theresia Emerentiana Ruprecht, sister of Court Apothecary [Hofapotheker] Johann Nepomuk Anton Ruprecht.

²³ BD: Maria Cäcilia Barbara Eberlin (1728-1806), eldest daughter of Salzburg music director Johann Ernst Eberlin (1702-1762); often called Waberl. She was thus Strasser's sister-in-law.

²⁴ BD: Hieronymus Joseph Franz de Paula, Count [Graf] Colloredo (1732-1812) was elected Archbishop of Salzburg in 1772. Studied in Vienna, canon in Salzburg 1747, then to the Collegium Germanicum in Rome. Priest in Statz, Austria, canon in Passau; provost of Saint Moritz in Augsburg. 1761 Prince-Bishop of Gurk.

²⁵ BD: Laufen, now part of Upper Bavaria. The Salzburg Archbishop had a summer residence there.

²⁶ BD: Maria Theresia, Gräfin Schönborn, née Colloredo, sister of the Archbishop of Salzburg.

²⁷ BD: Perhaps KV 289 (271g).

²⁸ BD: Perhaps KV 261, probably the replacement for the middle movement of KV 219.

²⁹ BD: Johann Baptist Baumgartner (1723-1781), born in Augsburg. Cello virtuoso, wrote a school for the instrument in 1777, also composed. Worked successively in Augsburg, Trier and Eichstätt. Gave a concert in Augsburg on 5th October, 1777, with musicians from Vienna and Weimar.

³⁰ 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.

³¹ BD: ≈ 15 florins.

³² BD: Johann Baptist Baumgartner (1723-1781), born in Augsburg. Cello virtuoso, wrote a school for the instrument in 1777, also composed. Worked successively in Augsburg, Trier and Eichstätt. Gave a concert in Augsburg on 5th October, 1777, with musicians from Vienna and Weimar.

³³ BD: The intermezzos for Voltaire's *Zaire*, cf. No. 0340/3 ff., 70 ff.