

0367. LEOPOLD MOZART TO HIS SON, MANNHEIM

À Monsieur / Monsieur Wolfgang Amadé / Mozart Maître de Musique / à / Manheim
/ at The Palatine Court¹

*Mon très cher Fils!*²

Salzb., 10th Novb.,
1777

[5] I write in the greatest haste that I received your letter³ of the 4th as I was on the way to Mass at the Theatines⁴ because it is Andreas Avelinus' Day.⁵ I ate there, then had to run to Vespers in the cathedral because of the Feast of St. Martin,⁶ and now I have an hour left over to write in, since the post goes at 5 o'clock. Yesterday I was the donor at shooting,⁷ and won the first prize myself. [10] I would wish you to gain the approval of the Elector⁸ and that you can you show yourself properly on the organ and in composition. – So they could do with a good organist⁹ in Manheim. I have received all the letters, some came a day later with the silk post.¹⁰ I have written every post-day, therefore you can easily look and see whether you have received all of them. I hope you will send the [15] sonata¹¹ which you wrote for Mdsle. Cannabich, copied on small paper,¹² to your sister as well. Did I not write¹³ to you recently that the Italians are not respected in Mannheim? – I knew it would be like that! I was told that Vogler¹⁴ was a music *theoreticus*;¹⁵ by what you say, he is probably a ceswn or fsklr,¹⁶ I have never seen him. [20] Herr Holzbauer¹⁷ was always an orderly, honest man. Please pass on my compliments to the gentlemen Holz. and Cannabich.¹⁸ You write nothing of the grand opera and the theatre? – – Perhaps next time. – – Are there no actors there? Are German singspiels perhaps performed there? – – If you receive the opportunity to show yourself properly, you will also have hopes of staying in Manheim,

¹ = “To Monsieur Wolfgang Amadé Mozart master of music in Mannheim at The Palatine Court”.

² = “My very dear son”.

³ BD: No. 0363.

⁴ BD: The monastery church on the left bank of the Salzach.

⁵ BD: 10th November. Avellinus died in Naples in 1608.

⁶ BD: 11th November.

⁷ BD: The shooting of bolts from airguns at round targets was practised in the apartments of the members of the “marksmen’s company” or club. Each time, a new target was presented by a member of the club, who would have some topical motif painted on it with matching verses. A member would donate a first prize and would then also pay for everything consumed during the meeting.

⁸ “Churf.”: BD: Karl Theodor (1724-1799). Studied in Leyden and Leuven. From 1742 Elector [Kurfürst] of the Palatinate, where he encouraged the arts in Mannheim, and from 30th December, 1777, Elector of Bavaria.

⁹ BD: Referring to No. 0363/59 ff.

¹⁰ BD: A running topic in recent letters: cf. Nos. 0354/107 f.; 0365/19; 0366/37.

¹¹ BD: KV 309 (284b), written for Rosina Theresia Petronella (* 1764), known as Rosa, daughter of Christian Cannabich (see below). In 1777 she received lessons from Mozart, who dedicated the clavier sonata in C KV 309 (284b) to her.

¹² BD: The smaller paper Mozart used on his journeys.

¹³ BD: Cf. No. 0343/30-31.

¹⁴ BD: Georg Joseph Vogler (1749-1814). After studying law and theology he became a court chaplain in Mannheim. He was sent to study in Italy for two years, returning to become spiritual adviser and deputy music director. Also active as teacher and theorist. Mozart usually spoke disparagingly of him.

¹⁵ = “theorist”.

¹⁶ Family code: “clown” or “joker”.

¹⁷ BD: Ignaz Jakob Holzbauer (1711-1783), from 1753 senior music director [Oberkapellmeister] in Mannheim, composer. Stayed in Mannheim rather than moving to Munich with the Elector in 1778. Mozart was positively impressed by his singspiel *Günther von Schwarzburg* in 1777 (première 5 January 1777), cf. No. 0373/52; No. 0377/59 ff.

¹⁸ BD: (Johann) Christian (Innocenz Bonaventura) Cannabich (1731-1798). Joined the Mannheim court music at the age of 13. After the death of Toeschi, he was sole music director to the Elector in Munich. The Cannabich family became particular friends of Mozart’s in Mannheim in 1777/78.

[25] for playing a concert and otherwise nothing is something anyone can do who has practised it. I regret that we are now so far apart: by the time I write something to you it will all be past. Have you made no attempt¹⁹ to get out of the inn into private lodgings and cheaper board? Herr Cannabich will no doubt advise you and take you by the hand. The gentlemen Baumgartner [30] and Géring²⁰ gave a concert yesterday in the town hall. The airgun company subscribed for it instead of bolt-shooting and did not give them a penny more than 4 thalers,²¹ but, on the other hand, the whole wild nobility²², even all the children, were there, and, along with the Archbishop's²³ contribution, they will not have taken more than 50-something florins. Your maiden cousin²⁴ will certainly send something, [35] today I will put it into the letter²⁵ that I had already drafted for her yesterday. Both of us, along with little Pimpes and Tresl,²⁶ are well. I hope and would wish that both of you are always so. Yesterday, Herr von Peterman²⁷ once again enquired about you from me, as did the young Count von Zeyl²⁸ the cathedral canon, then the Senior Master of the Kitchen²⁹ and others, – even Count Czernin³⁰ – If [40] I wanted to write all out the compliments sent to you I would have to start writing early in the morning. All commend themselves to you. We kiss both of you a million times and I am the same husband and son

Mozart

¹⁹ BD: Cf. Nos. 0360/35-36; 0365/22-23.

²⁰ BD: Cf. No. 0346/39. 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.

²¹ BD: 2 thalers = 4 florins.

²² BD: “The wild nobility” refers to civil servants and wealthy citizens who acquired titles, i.e. not traditional noble families. Reputed to be particularly insistent when it came to use of titles.

²³ BD: Hieronymus Joseph Franz de Paula, Count [Graf] Colloredo (1732-1812), Prince-Archbishop [Fürst-Erzbischof] of Salzburg from 1772. Employer of Leopold and, for a time, of Wolfgang.

²⁴ BD: Mozart’s cousin Maria Anna Thekla Mozart (1758-1841), known in the letters as the “Bäsele” [“little cousin”], cf. No. 0358.

²⁵ BD: No. 0368, lost.

²⁶ BD: Pimpes the dog, cf. No. 0291/37, and Therese Pänckl, their serving girl for many years.

²⁷ Karl, Baron [Freiherr] von Petermann († 1807), Imperial and Royal Lt. Col. [k. k. Oberstleutnant], *confidant* of the Archbishop; lived in the Archbishop’s residence as a bachelor. Supervised the education of the Archbishop’s nephew, Johann Rudolph, Count [Graf] Czernin. In 1776 corresponded with Prokop Adalbert, Count [Graf] Czernin in Prague about a pension for Mozart.

²⁸ “Graf v zeyl”. BD: Sigmund Christoph (* 1754), Count [Graf] Waldburg-Zeil, Imperial hereditary seneschal [Reichs-Erbruchsess], cathedral canon in Salzburg, Cologne and Constance. Nephew of the deceased Bishop in Chiemsee, cf. No. 0261/6.

²⁹ “Oberstkuchlmeister”. BD: Cf. No. 0379/71. Andrea Gottlieb, Baron [Freiherr] von Pranck (1720-1793), brother of Franz Xaver Gottlieb. Studied with support from his godfather Andreas Jakob, Count [Graf] Dietrichstein, the Archbishop of Salzburg 1747-1753. After a military career, occupied various positions at court, including master of the kitchens. Later, after his brother, city commander [Stadtkommandant] of Salzburg.

³⁰ “graf Czernin”. BD: Cf. No. 0319/37, 39 (“gräfin Lizau”). Johann Rudolph, Count [Graf] Czernin zu Chudenitz, son of the “old” Czernin, brother of Countess [Gräfin] Antonia Lützow (1738-1780). Senior Chamberlain [Oberstkämmerer] and thus responsible for the theatre in Vienna.