

0381. MOZART TO HIS FATHER, SALZBURG¹

*À / Monsieur / Monsieur Leopold Mozart / maitre de la Chapelle
de S:A:R: / L'archeveque de et à / Salzbourg*²

*Mon très cher Père!*³

Mannheim, 29th Nov.^{bre}
Evening 1777

[5] This morning I received your letter⁴ of the 24th safely, and gather from it that you would not be able⁵ to come to terms with fortune or misfortune if events should bring either of these upon us. To this day,⁶ all four of us, just as we are, were never fortunate or unfortunate, and for that I thank God. You level many accusations against the two of us, undeserved on our part. [10] We incur no expenses which are not necessary, and what is necessary on the journey is something you know as well, and better, than we do. The person responsible for our staying in Munich so long was none other than myself, and if I had been alone, I would certainly have remained in Munich. That we stayed in Augspurg⁷ for a fortnight? – – I would almost have to believe that you did not receive my letters from Augspurg? [15] – – I wanted to give a concert – I was misled; with that, one week was gone. I was *absoulement*⁸ of a mind to leave. They did not let me. Their wish was that I should give a concert; I wished to be asked, which also happened. I gave a concert.⁹ There, now, are the 14 days. That we went to Mannheim straight away? – – I gave the answer to this [20] in my last letter. That we are still here? – – Yes – – Can you then believe that I would stay anywhere without a reason? – – But one could at least, for one's father – – Alright, you should know the reason for, yes, the whole course of events. But, by God, I did not want to write anything about that because I was unable |: just as I am today :| to write anything with all the details, and would therefore, [25] with an uncertain report, have put you |: as I know you :| in a state of care and worry, which I have always tried to avoid. But if you attribute the reason to my negligence, recklessness and laziness, I can do nothing other than thank you for your good opinion and regret with my whole heart that you do not know me, your son.

[30] I am not reckless, I am simply prepared for everything and can therefore wait for everything with patience and endurance – – as long as my honour and my good name, Mozart, do not suffer as a result. Now, since it must simply be this way, then let it be. But, looking ahead, I would ask you not to rejoice or to distress yourself before the time, for, however things may come, all is well as long as one is in good health; [35] for happiness¹⁰ has its being – – in the imagination alone. On Tuesday¹¹ two weeks ago, the 18th, namely on the day before St. Elizabeth's Day, I went to Count Savioli¹² in the morning and asked him

¹ This letter contains a large amount of "family code", indicated here by angle brackets < >.

² = "To Monsieur Leopold Mozart, music director to His Royal Highness the Archbishop of and in Salzbourg".

³ = "My very dear father".

⁴ BD: No. 0378.

⁵ BD: Cf. No. 0387/25 ff.

⁶ BD: Cf. No. 0417/17-80.

⁷ Augsburg.

⁸ = "absolutely".

⁹ BD: On 22nd October, 1777.

¹⁰ BD: Cf. No. 0387/70 ff.

¹¹ BD: His visit to Savioli has already been mentioned in No. 0376.

¹² "graf savioli". BD: Louis Aurel, Count [Graf] Savioli († 1788), supervisor of music at court in Mannheim. Mozart was presented to him by music director Holzbauer on 4th November, 1777. Cf. No. 0363/55. Cf. No. 0360/55.

if it might perhaps be possible for <the Elector¹³ to keep> me here <this winter>? – – I wanted <to instruct the young lords and ladies.¹⁴> He said: Yes, I will <propose that to the Elector>, and if it receives my approval, [40] it will certainly happen. In the afternoon I was at Cannabich's,¹⁵ and since I had gone to the Count on his advice, he immediately asked me if I had been there? – I told him everything; he said to me: I would be very happy if you <stayed with us for the winter >, but I would be even happier if you were <in permanent and proper service here>. I said: I would wish for nothing more [45] than that I could always be close to you, sir, but, as for <permanent>, I do not really know how that could be possible. You already have <two music directors¹⁶>, so I do not know <what I should be>, for I would not wish to be subordinate to <Vogler¹⁷>! Nor should you be, said he. Here no <person of the music> is under the <music director>, not even under the <supervisor.¹⁸ The [50] Elector could of course make you Chamber Composer>. Just wait, sir, I will < speak to the Count about it>. The following Thursday there was a grand concert. When <the Count> saw me, he begged my pardon that he <had not yet spoken about it>, since we now have the <gala days¹⁹>; but as soon as <the gala> was finished, namely on Monday,²⁰ <he would certainly speak about it>. I let 3 days go past, [55] and when I heard nothing at all, I went to him to enquire about it. He said: My dear *Msr.* Mozart, |: that was on Friday,²¹ namely yesterday |: , today there was <the hunt, and so I could not possibly have asked the Elector>, but at this time tomorrow I will <certainly be able to give you an answer>. I asked him on no account to forget. To confess the truth, [60] I was somewhat incensed as I went away [60] and therefore decided <to bring> my easiest 6 variations on Fischer's menuett |: which I had already written out myself for this business here |: <to the young Count²²> in order to have an opportunity <to speak with the Elector myself>. You cannot imagine the joy of the <governess> when I arrived. I was received [65] very courteously. When I took out the variations²³ and said that they are intended for <the Count>, she said: Oh, that is wonderful, but you will certainly have something for the <Countess²⁴> as well? – – Not yet, said I, but if I stay on here so long that I have time to write something, I will – – *Appropos*, said she, I am glad about that; you <are staying here for the whole winter>. [70] Me? – – I know nothing about that! – – That surprises me. That is curious. I heard this recently <from the Elector himself>. *Appropos*, he said, <Mozart is staying here for the winter>. Well, if he said that, the one who said it is the one person who can say it, for without <the Elector> I <cannot> of course <stay here>. I then told her the whole story. We agreed that I [75]

¹³ “C:fürst”. 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. Cf. No. 0363/30.

¹⁴ BD: The illegitimate children of the Elector. Cf. No. 0363/88.

¹⁵ BD: (Johann) Christian (Innocenz Bonaventura) Cannabich (1731-1798). Joined the Mannheim court music at the age of 13. After the death of Toeschi (see above), he was sole music director to the Elector in Munich. The Cannabich family became particular friends of Mozart's in Mannheim in 1777/78. Cf. No. 0057/13.

¹⁶ BD: Cannabich and Vogler.

¹⁷ 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. Cf. No. 0360/59.

¹⁸ BD: = Savioli, cf. line 37.

¹⁹ BD: Cf. Nos. 0363/84, 85; 0376/4. Continuation (till 23rd Nov.) of the celebrations of the name-day (19th Nov.) of the Electress, Elizabeth Maria Aloysia Auguste (1721-1794). The clavier/violin sonatas KV 301 (293a); 302 (293b); 303 (293c); 304 (300c); 305 (293d); 306 (300l) are dedicated to her.

²⁰ BD: 24th November, 1777.

²¹ BD: 28th November, 1777.

²² “den jungen grafen”. BD: The illegitimate son Karl August, cf. No. 0366/25.

²³ BD: KV 179 (189a); cf. No. 0355/43; No. 0308/47. Mozart had put together the six easiest of the 12 variations. This simplified version of the work does not seem to have survived.

²⁴ “Comtesse”. BD: Karoline Louise, cf. No. 0366/25.

would come after 4 o'clock the next day, which is today, and bring something with me for the <Countess>. She would < speak to the Elector > |: before I came :| and I would also < meet him >. I went there today, but he did not come today. But I will go tomorrow. I have composed a Rondeau²⁵ for the < Countess >. Don't I now have enough reason to stay [80] here and wait for the conclusion? – – Is there any reason why I should leave now, when the biggest step has been taken? – – Now I have an opportunity to speak < to the Elector himself. For the winter, I believe, > I will probably < remain here, for the Elector is inclined towards me, has a high opinion of me, and knows what I can do >. I hope to be able to give you good news in the next letter. [85] I would ask you once again not to rejoice or to worry too soon and not to entrust the story of events to any persons other than Herr Bullinger²⁶ and my sister.²⁷ Herewith I send to my sister the Allegro and Andante from the sonata²⁸ for Mad:^{selle} Cannabich.²⁹ The Rondeau³⁰ will follow with the next post. It would have been too thick to send everything together. You will simply have to be content with the original; [90] you can have it copied³¹ more easily at 6 kreuzers per sheet than I can at 24 kreuzers: don't you find that expensive? – – *Addieu*. I kiss your hands 100 000 times, and I embrace my sister from the bottom of my heart, and am, sir, your most obedient son,

Wolfgang Amadé Mozart

[95] You will probably have heard a little about the sonata,³² for at Canabich's it is being sung, plucked, fiddled or whistled at least three times a day!³³ – – Only *sotto voce*, of course.

MARIA ANNA MOZART'S POSTSCRIPT:

My dear husband, I kiss you and Nannerl many 1000 times and ask [100] that our compliments be passed on to all our acquaintances. With the next post I will certainly write more. Today it is already 12 o'clock at night. *Adio*, I remain your faithful wife

Maria Anna Mozart

²⁵ BD: KV 284f: lost, or incorporated into one of the keyboard sonatas (KV⁶ p. 291).

²⁶ BD: Abbé Franz Joseph Johann Nepomuk Bullinger (1744-1810), Jesuit, private tutor, friend of the Mozart family in Salzburg, where he seems to have arrived between 1774 and 1776. House tutor to Count [Graf] Leopold Ferdinand Arco, later to Count [Graf] Sigmund ("Sigerl") Lodron. Mozart called him "his best of all friends" (cf. No. 0459/1).

²⁷ BD: Cf. No. 0377/34 ff.

²⁸ BD: KV 309 (284b). Cf. No. 0363/14 ff.

²⁹ BD: Rosina Theresia Petronella (* 1764), known as Rosa, daughter of Christian Cannabich. In 1777 she received lessons from Mozart, who dedicated the clavier sonata in C KV 309 (284b) to her. Cf. No. 0363/13.

³⁰ BD: Mozart sent the Rondeau on 3rd December, 1777 (cf. No. 0383/48).

³¹ BD: A copy in Leopold's own hand has survived.

³² BD: KV 309 (284b) as above.

³³ BD: Cf. No. 1022/20-21.