

0382.¹ LEOPOLD MOZART TO HIS SON, MANNHEIM

*À Monsieur / Monsieur Wolfgang Amadé / Mozart Maître de Musique /
à / Man[n]heim / at The Palatine Court.²*

Mon très cher Fils!

Salzb. the 1 *Decembris* 1777

I am writing the present letter today, Saturday the 29th – so today there was a competition [5] to choose a chorister to replace the blessedly departed Egger.³ It was ridiculous to myself and to all of us that the esteemed cathedral dean⁴ also invited Herr Haydn,⁵ Herr Meissner⁶ and Herr Spizeder⁷ to attend, since it concerns no-one besides the two choir conductors at the cathedral and, on the Prince's side, the court music director.⁸ I furthermore said at once, as I saw all these people together, and in a loud voice: [10] There has been a grave omission:⁹ Herr Rust should have been carried here in his chair and, above all, the castrato¹⁰ should be summoned, so as to be certain that no error could slip in during the selection of a cathedral chorister. There were 7 candidates: the son of the chorister Seelos,¹¹ that certain Hözl¹² whom Meissner wanted to bring to the court; the student from Nonnberg¹³ who is always at Kolb's¹⁴ [15] and has played violin with us at home a few times; a member of the company of city waits who wants to marry the widow etc. And who else? – – Westermayr!¹⁵ Unanimously, Seelos' son was best of all of them in plaintchant.

¹ This letter contains numerous phrases in the family code, enclosed in angle brackets < >.

² = “*To Monsieur Wolfgang Amadé Mozart, master of music in Man[n]heim at The Palatine Court*”. [An inn, ‘Im Pfälzischen Hof’].

³ BD VIII: Georg Anton Egger, from 1751 tenor in Salzburg cathedral. Cf. No. 0357/47.

⁴ “H: Domdechant”. BD: Franz Xaver, Baron [Freiherr], later Prince [Fürst], Breuner (* 1723). Cf. No. 0340/93.

⁵ 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. On a personal level relationships were difficult, possibly because of his inclination to drink. On 17th August, 1768, Haydn married Maria Magdalena Lipp (1745-1828), daughter of the court organist Franz Ignaz Lipp.

⁶ BD VII: Joseph Nikolaus Meissner (c. 1725-1795), son of the Salzburg court musician Niklas Meissner (c. 1691-1760). Employed in Salzburg from 1747, but often on tour. Reputed to sing everything from high tenor to deep bass, but cf. Mozart's judgement in No. 0453/83 ff. His sister also sang in Salzburg.

⁷ BD: Franz Anton Spi(t)zeder (1735-1796), studied at Salzburg university, tenor in the Salzburg court music, later a favourite of the Archbishop and an influential figure in the court music. Sang in Mozart's *Die Schuldigkeit des Ersten Gebots* KV 35 and *La Finta semplice* KV 51 (46a).

⁸ BD VII: Giacomo (Jakob) Rust, (1741 1786), first studied in Naples, later in Rome. Several of his operas were performed in Venice 1773-1776. 1776-1777, he was music director in Salzburg. He fell ill and left Salzburg for Venice in 1778, where he continued composing. In 1783 he accepted a post in Barcelona, where he died. Had strained relations with Michael Haydn.

⁹ BD: Meant ironically, of course.

¹⁰ BD: Francesco Ceccarelli (1752-1814), castrato, employed in Salzburg and then, from 1795, in Dresden; often a guest in the Mozarts' house. Mozart wrote for him KV 374, cf. No. 0587/19; he also sang in Mozart's concert in Frankfurt in 1790. Cf. No. 0357/22, 42.

¹¹ BD: The father was Jakob Seelos († 1798), from Swabia, from 1754 cathedral chorister in Salzburg. His son joined the choir in 1777. Cf. No. 0335/31.

¹² BD: Not identified.

¹³ BD: Mentioned again in No. 0446/35-36 as “Kolb's student”. Presumably a student who had been allowed to live in the monastery Nonnberg and who ate at Kolb's.

¹⁴ BD: Either: merchants' factor and city councillor Johann Anton Kolb, cf. Nos. 0088/191; 0337/58, for whom Mozart wrote a violin concerto (cf. No. 0473/148) [Possibilities include KV 207 or 271a (271i)] or: Franz Xaver Kolb, who was administrator of the Order of St. Rupert [Rupert-Ritterorden] and for the Chancellor of the Salzburg Parliament of the Estates, Johann Ernst von Antretter(n).

¹⁵ BD VIII: Cathedral chorister Johann David Westermayer (1757-1775).

He made his case *sine errore*¹⁶, the others all made mistakes, more or less, some got almost nothing right. In *musica figurata*, I put your *Alma Redemptoris Mater*¹⁷ in F in front of them. [20] Seelos sang it very nicely -- better than his father sings, -- Hözl, as a pupil of Meissner and practitioner of *canzonettas à 3*, sang it more finely. But since it depends on plainchant here, Seelos was put in *primo loco*:¹⁸ his voice is also stronger and he is even younger, he was a chapel boy chorister, his father has served as a chorister for 23 years, has many children, [25] and the son will only remain a chorister until he receives a *Titulum Mensae*¹⁹ or dies as a cathedral canon, since he wishes to join the clergy. But whether the Archbishop |: as usual :| may nevertheless select another remains to be seen. This audition was at 9 o'clock, when the 7 poor sinners were trembling before the test. Just then, another poor sinner who, although he is only 19 years old, [30] was one of a large band of robbers, was led to the place of execution to give up his head so that it can be stuck on the wheel.

Yesterday morning, Friday, old Fräulein von Kuefstein²⁰ passed into eternity, and, in the afternoon, just as Herr Bullinger²¹ was with us as usual, we received your letter²² of the 23rd. Blast it, oracular utterances²³ without end! [35] It is as I said in my last letter: there must be secrets which are being kept from me. You are no doubt right -- whether things turn out for good or for bad, I will hear about it soon enough. In my previous letter, I could only write down pure speculation with as much foresight as is humanly possible, and I must admit that I could not extract anything from the letters from the two of you [40] apart from the impending journey and <lack of money>, and, since I <know the world better> than both of you -- the rare, yes, quite certainly rare phenomenon of <true friends>, my hopes are left hanging from <a mere hair>. In this case, of course, it is true that in <Herr Cannabich²⁴ you will have a friend >, [45] since his <interest> is linked to this because of <his daughter²⁵>. In short, I do not know what I should <say or hope>. But if, in the worst case, <nothing comes> of all this? Let us leave <it to Almighty God>! Were you at the masked ball in the opera house?²⁶ -- Yesterday, I am writing this today, the 1st Decemb., I donated the target,²⁷ Herr Bullinger won it on your behalf; [50] I made a profit for Mama from it of 8 kreuzers. Cajetan Antretter,²⁸ Bullinger, Cath. Gilowsky²⁹ and Nannerl³⁰ played cards

¹⁶ = "without error".

¹⁷ BD: Probably *Alma Dei creatoris* KV 277.

¹⁸ = "first place".

¹⁹ BD: Certificate for a candidate for ordination to the priesthood stating that his future source of income is assured.

²⁰ BD: Maria Anna Ursula Susanna, Countess [Gräfin] Kuefstein (1703-1777), daughter of the Salzburg colonel [Oberst] and city defence commander [Stadtkommandant] Hilfgott, Count [Graf] Kuefstein. She died unmarried.

²¹ 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).

²² BD: No. 0377, dated 22nd November.

²³ BD: No. 0377/34 ff.

²⁴ 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.

²⁵ 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.

²⁶ BD: Frau Mozart answers in the negative: cf. No. 0386/59-60.

²⁷ 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 then also pay for all food and drink consumed during the meeting.

²⁸ BD: Kajetan von Antretter (1758-1814), son of the Chancellor of the Parliament of the Estates [Landschaftskanzler] and Royal War Adviser [Hofkriegsrat] Johann Ernst von Antretter. After a career in administration, he ran into debt and died insane in a religious house.

afterwards as usual, and, in place of Andretter, who went at 4 o'clock, I played until after 5 o'clock. Now to something else. That certain housekeeper has moved out of the front room where Stadler³¹ was; Frau Mosshammer³² has moved over into those quarters, [55] and Mitzerl³³, who always commends herself, now that the other had been so quick on the draw, then immediately moved downstairs to where Frau Mosshammer was, where it is more comfortable because of climbing the stairs and also because of her little kitchen. Now, when she afterwards saw that, from 100 persons, she could not get anyone for her previous room because of us, she made the room available to me for 8 florins per annum – [60] and I am taking in that poor bonnet maker, our Susanna Auer.³⁴ On the coming Wednesday, the day after tomorrow, she will move in. Where she has been up till now, she had to pay 12 florins. Now she gives us 8 florins, and 15 kreuzers per month to our Therese³⁵ for lighting the fire and sweeping, amounting to 3 florins yearly – so she still has one gulden left over. She buys her meat with ours, we boil it with ours, [65] and Therese then prepares her soups and meat and takes it over to her. This, for one person, is more what alms are about than for the vagabond idle poor. In our woodstore, a small space has been cleared for her wood, and on feast-days no-one counts a couple of spoonfuls of soup and a little pudding.

[70] What you wrote to me³⁶ about the litany at Holy Cross could have been done without so many formalities, *ad captandum benevolentiam*.³⁷ I would not have been against it anyway, since I know that they need such litanies most. But that they even write inviting people to play: I know better, that is not true. I was a boy soprano³⁸ there for some time [75] and sang up on the stairs by the organ. The musici in the town were invited. The court trumpeters join in, too, when they are there. They can also have the city waits for the trombones etc. etc., and that is all they need. So far no one has written to me about anything, but I would rather send it to them in copy, simply for the price of the copying, than send them the score. [80] Many years ago, the esteemed Dean,³⁹ as organist at the time, had one of my scores in his hands for 3 years before I could get it back from him, and it would certainly be written out more nicely here than if they have students writing it out as a punishment exercise and smearing all over the score. Besides, you know that some things are not easy to read in your scores if one is not already accustomed to it. [85] I like it to be written properly and without messy patching and errors.

There is complete silence about the esteemed Senior Equerry.⁴⁰ Herr von Schiedenhofen⁴¹ spread talk to the effect that there was some objection to the matter

²⁹ BD: "Katherl, Katerl, Catherl", Katharina Gilowsky (1750-1802), daughter of court surgeon Wenzel Andreas Gilowsky, member of the airgun club of earlier years, frequenter of the Mozart family home. Sometime governess to the children of Leopold Andreas, Count [Graf] Plaz.

³⁰ BD: Wolfgang's sister.

³¹ BD: Probably Mathias Franz de Paula Stadler (c. 1744-1827). Tenor, violin teacher. Sang "Oebalus" in *Apollo et Hyacinthus* KV 38, cf. Nos. 0321/10; 0805/31, 36.

³² BD VIII: Daughter of the court kitchen supervisor. Cf. No. 0380/106.

³³ BD: Maria Anna Raab († 1788, aged 78), along with "Joly Sallerl" (cf. No. 0062/41) one of the most faithful friends of the family. Rented out the first floor of her house, the "Tanzmeisterhaus" ["Dancing Master's House"] to the Mozarts from 1773 until Leopold's death in 1787.

³⁴ BD: Maria Clara Susanna Auer (* 1742), youngest daughter of the administrator of Salzburg Cathedral Chapter, Franz Christoph Auer. Cf. No. 0382/60.

³⁵ BD: Therese Pänkl (serving girl in the Mozart household).

³⁶ BD: Suitable compositions were being sought. No. 0376/36 ff.; No. 0457/74 ff.

³⁷ = "to gain goodwill".

³⁸ BD: In No. 0348/112 he mentions only his singing in the choir at St. Ulrich in Augsburg.

³⁹ BD: Father Ludwig Zöschinger (1731-1806), took vows in Augsburg in 1761. Organist and monastery dean in Holy Cross [Heiligkreuz]. Also composed. Cf. No. 0355/13 etc.

⁴⁰ "H: Oberbereuter". BD: "Silence" about his re-marriage, cf. Nos. 0355/119-120; 0377/86-87. Gottlieb von Weyrother, Esquire [Edler] (1731-1816), active in the Salzburg riding school and in charge of the court stables. Widower since 23rd October, 1777.

because of what has now been discovered about the precarious circumstances of the health of the intended bride. It is certain, on the other hand, [90] that Herr von Schiedenhofen wishes to cede only a third of the estate to his sister, but that the court council⁴² is against it; – that Herr Babbius,⁴³ who has now had the opportunity to look into Fräulein Louise's⁴⁴ means in the court council, has secretly made her acquaintance, that they always meet at Frau von Gayer's,⁴⁵ that Babbius is thus seeking to improve his circumstances, [95] that if it becomes serious, the Court Chancellor⁴⁶ – and then also the Archbishop⁴⁷ himself – will be on his side, and that Herr Schiedenhofen will have no joy from all of this, just as little as the sister is happy with her brother's impending marriage. Then Babbius is to marry Fräulein von Schiedenhofen, so she should be able to get hold of her entire inheritance [100] and her esteemed brother would not be able to keep anything back to his advantage. Secretary von Hamm⁴⁸ has long since written to me⁴⁹ and I have long since replied;⁵⁰ in turn, his answer⁵¹ to my reply arrived 3 post-days ago, for I left it up to him to make a statement about what he was ready to pay me for living costs and teaching. He declared that he hoped that I would be satisfied [105] with 150 florins per annum for everything, which would be the same as 12 florins 30 kreuzers per month; nor did he forget to mention the breakfast of one little bowl of coffee and a bread roll every day. I have not yet replied to him, since I could not possibly take the time, and it is not urgent anyway, since he said to me in the first letter that he intended to send his Fräulein daughter⁵² in the coming spring, [110] and repeated the same in the second letter, referring to winter because of travelling, and furthermore added that she must first be suitably provided – why not then say armed – with everything. It sounds as if the agreement must first be drawn up. Perhaps I am also to take her as my wife. According to this proposal, I would then have the honour of giving [115] Fräulein von Hamm board – drink – breakfast – room, etc. and lessons |: N.B. in total :| for 25 kreuzers per day. I will write to him with the next post and explain to him in detail that I could not take her for less than 200 florins per annum. – And until next spring there is still much snow to fall and much water to flow in all the rivers. Herr Leutgeb,⁵³ who has now bought a

⁴¹ BD: Johann Baptist Joseph Joachim Ferdinand von Schiedenhofen (1747-1812) made a successful career in the state administration of Salzburg. Due to marry Maria Klara Daubrawa von Daubrawiack in 1778. The Schiedenhofens were in frequent contact with the Mozarts, offering mother and daughter accommodation in Schloss Triebenbach during the travels of Leopold and Wolfgang. Cf. Nos. 0143/29-30; 0348/21 ff.

⁴² "Hofrath".

⁴³ BD: Georg, Baron [Freiherr] von Bapius, court counsellor, violinist in Czernin's amateur orchestra Cf. No. 0379/60.

⁴⁴ BD: Maria Anna Aloisia von Schiedenhofen, sister of the Johann Baptist just mentioned. She later became the third wife of Weyrother, who first of all married Maria Anna Constantia Barisani, who died in 1778.

⁴⁵ BD: Wife of Salzburg court chamber councillor [Hofkammerrat] Johann Elias von Geyer (c. 1718-1790), who was responsible for work on the New Gate [Neutor] in Salzburg, mentioned frequently by Leopold in his letters.

⁴⁶ "Hofkanzler". BD: Franz Anton Ignaz, Baron [Freiherr] von Kürsinger (1727-1796), director of the geheime Kanzlei / Privy Chancellery; from 1774 Court Chancellor [Hofkanzler], a position between the President and Director. Member of the eclectic lodge "Zur Fürsicht" ["At the sign of Providence"] in Salzburg.

⁴⁷ "Erzbischof". 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.

⁴⁸ BD: Joseph Konrad von Hamm, Esquire [Edler] von Sonnenfels (1728-1795), secretary in the Royal Ministry of War [Hofkriegsrat] in Vienna. Mozart had most likely met him in the house of Count [Graf] Salern. He was considering sending his daughter to Leopold for lessons. Cf. No. 0347/128 ff., 144-145.

⁴⁹ BD: No. 0381c, lost.

⁵⁰ BD: No. 0381d, lost.

⁵¹ BD: No. 0381e, lost.

⁵² BD: Cf. No. 0347/129, 134, 151.

⁵³ BD: Joseph (incorrectly Ignaz) Leutgeb (Leitgeb) (1732-1811), horn player, one of the few people mentioned throughout the almost 30 years of correspondence (1763-1791). The large number of works written for him by Mozart (KV 371, KV 412 + 514 (386b), 407 (386c), 417, 447, 495) speak for his musical abilities.

little snail's shell house on credit, [120] with rights for a dairy business, in an outlying part of Vienna, wrote⁵⁴ to you and to me in brief after you have left and promised to pay me, under the usual conditions of postponement until he becomes richer from the dairy business, and he is asking for a concerto from you. Now, he will no doubt also know that you are no longer in Salzburg. – [125] Mad^{me}: Duscheck⁵⁵ recently wrote⁵⁶ to me, and he and she wish to know where you are staying and your circumstances. – Now, in closing, I must ask you if Baron Dürniz⁵⁷ paid you in Munich? Or if you are going to make a present of it to him? – Should perhaps either I or you remind him a little? – Now I think I have said everything that I know. Nannerl is now at the Hagenauers,⁵⁸ [130] and is then going to the Robinigs,⁵⁹ where I will also join them to let Fräulein Louise⁶⁰ hear the duets by Schuster.⁶¹ Keep well, both of you, as we do. We kiss you many 1 000 000 000 000 000 000 times, and I am as always, panting onwards without joy or suffering like the innocent children,⁶² your husband and father,

Mzt

[135] Herr Bullinger, who is here, as it happens to be half past 2, commends himself along with everyone. As so often, he will take the letter to the post. The actors⁶³ have not yet arrived, if they are still coming, for they sent their apologies, saying the principal has broken his arm. It seems to me that they are staying [140] in their suburb by Vienna as long as people come. If they do not get any more people, they still have time to take to the road. But if they still have people, they will find it more advantageous to stay where they are than to venture the travelling costs before they have even started here. Sgr. Rust is constantly taking strengthening medication and since that time has never left his room. [145] His intention is to restore his strength so much that he can travel in spring, for in the meantime he will without doubt have applied by letter to write an *opera buffa per la prima fera*.⁶⁴ Haydn's wife⁶⁵ has been ill in bed for some weeks now.

With Count Johannes von Arco,⁶⁶ whom you know, [150] who left military service and now was in Passau with his esteemed brother,⁶⁷ the father of young Count Leopold,⁶⁸

There is evidence that he never bought this house: various official records list his father-in-law as its owner at a later date. He probably inherited it.

⁵⁴ BD: No. 0381b, lost.

⁵⁵ BD: Josepha Duscheck (1753-1824), singer, wife of Franz Xaver Duscheck (1731-1799), pianist and composer in Prague. They met the Mozarts in 1777. Mozart wrote two works for Josepha: KV 272 (cf. No. 0337/84); KV 528 (cf. No. 1070/809).

⁵⁶ BD: No. 0381a, lost.

⁵⁷ BD: Cf. No. 0340/25. BD VIII: Thaddäus Wolfgang Baron [Freiherr] von Dürniz (1756-1807). Major à la suite (entitled to wear military uniform but without duties) in Munich, amateur musician. Mozart wrote the clavier sonata KV 284 (205a) for him, as well as possibly three bassoon concertos and a sonata for bassoon. At his death, he had 74 Mozart works in his possession.

⁵⁸ BD: Johann Lorenz Hagenauer (1712-1792), Salzburg merchant. Friend of the Mozarts and their landlord 1747-1773. Cf. No. 0032.

⁵⁹ BD: Factory owner Georg Joseph Robinig von Rottenfeld (1710-1760). The family was in frequent contact with the Mozarts.

⁶⁰ BD: Daughter Maria Aloisia Viktoria (1757-1786), known as Louise.

⁶¹ BD: Cf. No. 0345/62-63. Probably *VI Divertimenti di camera a Cembalo e Violino* (c. 1777) by Joseph Schuster (1748-1812), since 1772 Electoral music director in Dresden; studied with Padre Martini. Four string quartets initially attributed to Mozart (KV Anh. 210-213; KV⁶: Anh. C 20.01-20.04) have in the meantime been identified as works by Schuster.

⁶² BD: According to the Catholic doctrine that unbaptised children spend eternity in Limbo.

⁶³ BD: As announced in No. 0380/125 ff.

⁶⁴ = “a comic opera for the first fair”.

⁶⁵ BD: Maria Magdalena Haydn, née Lipp, singer and wife of Michael Haydn.

⁶⁶ BD: Probably Johann Nepomuk Ludwig Franz, Count [Graf] Arco († 1833).

⁶⁷ BD: Leopold Julius Felix, Count [Graf] Arco, at this point senior master of the stables [Oberststallmeister] in Passau.

horrifying events have taken place. He had an incomparably good servant, who had the fortunate prospect of entering very good service with a nobleman in Passau. He asked the Count to recommend him, but the latter became enraged to the highest degree, [155] paid him off, took off his livery, sent for the sergeant from the Imperial recruitment, to whom he consigned him. Now, as he went over the Danube bridge with the sergeant, the poor man leapt over the Danube bridge and was drowned. It was 5 o'clock in the evening, all Passau became rebellious, and Count Arco had to flee from Passau, otherwise the students and the populace [160] would have beaten him to death. A fine story of courtiers, isn't it! Addio!

⁶⁸ BD: Leopold Ferdinand III, Count [Graf] Arco (1764-1832). Probably a pupil of Leopold Mozart. Cf. Nos. 0347/203; 0337/111.