

*Mon tres cher Fils!*<sup>2</sup>Salzb., 19<sup>th</sup> Octb., 1778.

Your letter<sup>3</sup> from *Nancy* reached me on 13<sup>th</sup> Oct. – mine<sup>4</sup> of 17<sup>th</sup> Sept. addressed to Paris arrived on the same day as you left and will have followed you to Strassburg, just as my answer<sup>5</sup> of 24<sup>th</sup> to your letter of 22<sup>nd</sup> Sept.<sup>6</sup> will have reached Paris on 3<sup>rd</sup> Oct., when you were already in *Nancy*; this too, I hope, will have been sent on to you by Herr *Grimm*<sup>7</sup> and you will have received it.<sup>8</sup> So there are now 2 letters. Then you will once again have found a letter<sup>9</sup> from me at the esteemed Frank Brothers,<sup>10</sup> and that would be the third letter, [10] in which you will also have read of my very great dissatisfaction over the stupid arrangements<sup>11</sup> made by H: Grimm. I became yet angrier after I had read your letter from *Nancy*. I cannot comprehend what intentions *Grimm* had in rushing you off so abominably, and you would have done very well if Count Sickingen<sup>12</sup> had kept you so that you could have stayed in Paris some days longer and waited for my last letter [15] if N.B. you were assured of earning further money. I am also angry with him for other reasons, which I will have to save for our personal conversation: this is how it turns out if one does not write everything honestly. You should have informed me of his ambiguous conduct a long time ago: I myself noticed certain tendencies from his letters [20] which showed me that he will not leave your reputation unsullied because of the favours he showed towards you, and then I would have put your honest account of the circumstances and his letters side by side and would long since have advised you to look for another friend who might not begrudge you a room in his house. [25] A hundred times I thought, and also said to Herr *Bullinger*<sup>13</sup> and your sister: – – should he not then take lodgings with Count Sickingen or some other lover of music? – – His letters gave me cause for this –, but yours did not, except for the last one, when there was no more time because the letters have much too long a way to travel. Enough! It is all over now. – That was a *lesson* – [30] which convinces you of what I had said a hundred times, <sup>14</sup>that a friend without objectives, a true friend, a friend on every occasion, in good and bad fortune, is the rarest of all things in this world. I will say all these things to you in person, and the letters from *Grimm* will convince you that they placed me in the greatest embarrassment. [35] Now I must remind you of one thing or another concerning Munich. You were, and perhaps still are, thinking of <entering the service of the

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<sup>1</sup> This letter contains passages in "family code"; these are marked with angle brackets < >.

<sup>2</sup> = "My very dear son!"

<sup>3</sup> BD: No. 0494.

<sup>4</sup> BD: No. 0490. Arrived on 26<sup>th</sup> September, 1778.

<sup>5</sup> BD: No. 0491.

<sup>6</sup> BD: Leopold means the letter of the 11<sup>th</sup> September, No. 0487.

<sup>7</sup> BD: No. 0491.

<sup>8</sup> BD: Cf. No. 0496/7-8.

<sup>9</sup> BD: No. 0493.

<sup>10</sup> BD: Cf. No. 0493/18-19. The Frank brothers were Strasbourg agents for the Salzburg merchants Sigmund Haffner the Elder (1699-1772) and Younger (1756-1787). Serenade and symphony KV 250 and 385 were written for the Haffner family.

<sup>11</sup> BD: Cf. No. 0494/14 ff.

<sup>12</sup> "Graf Sickingen". BD: Karl Heinrich Joseph, Count [Graf] Sickingen zu Sickingen, Palatine Ambassador (1777-1791) and patron of music in Paris. Cf. Nos. 0439/14; 0462/117-118.

<sup>13</sup> 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. Amateur viola player. Mozart called him "his best of all friends" (cf. Nos. 0331/5; 0459/1).

<sup>14</sup> BD: Cf. No. 0385/92 ff.

Electors.<sup>15</sup> Now, this will not be such an easy thing to hope for.> All the Munich musicians, as I hear, are to be pensioned off, except Herr Fiala<sup>16</sup> and one other, who remain salaried and in active service on the cor anglais; [40] all the others may no longer serve. *Fiala* wrote<sup>17</sup> to me himself saying he is continuing to be paid and to serve; regarding the others, I am waiting for news from Herr B.,<sup>18</sup> in fact daily, because the Elector arrived in Munich on the 9<sup>th</sup> of this month.<sup>19</sup> In view of all this, <Herr *Fiala* wishes to leave his service in Munich and come to Salzburg<sup>20</sup>>. He writes: [45] he sees from the present confusions resulting from the death<sup>21</sup> of the Elector of blessed memory, and every reasonable person must see,<sup>22</sup>that things will get far worse after the death of the present Elector, because the court, especially regarding the musicians, is still very overmanned. <The Elector's health, however, will not last, he is always suffering> setbacks to his health, [50] and probably has an dangerous proclivity to <dropsy>. – I have just this moment received a letter<sup>23</sup> from B., he informs me that *Cannabich*<sup>24</sup> has been presented as *director*, and if someone is required, he must be willing and ready to perform his service, however the Munich musicians are having to cede places to those from Mannheim. The Munich musicians, moreover, have been divided into 3 classes. The first, [55] being those in active service, hope to retain their entire salary. The second class are those who will step into another's post in the course of time, and they are mostly old and will certainly sooner die than be able to take over a post. The 3<sup>rd</sup> class are the *emeriti*, who are not allowed to perform duties. Of those in the last 2 classes, 100 and more guldens<sup>25</sup> have already been subtracted from their pay. [60]

All probationers have been dismissed without hope because there are so many young people from Mannheim there who were employed. In the German Theatre,<sup>26</sup> the orchestra is now 32 persons strong, yet there are only 3 there from Munich, the rest all young people from Mannheim, each of them paid 130 florins per year for it by the Elector. [65] B. will send me the whole *lista*<sup>27</sup> soon. Great God! What will become of all this one day when this Elector departs this earthly life? Where will all such people go, when the prospects are bad everywhere now? – There is now indeed almost a battalion of musical artists in Munich. So far my writing has been calm. Now here comes a blow to the heart! [70] A terrifying blow to the heart. I had written<sup>28</sup> to Frank Brothers in Strassburg on the 1<sup>st</sup> Oct. informing them of your arrival and my instructions to Herr Scherz.<sup>29</sup> They replied<sup>30</sup> to

<sup>15</sup> “Churfürst”. 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 30<sup>th</sup> December, 1777, Elector of Bavaria. Cf. No. 0363/30.

<sup>16</sup> BD: Joseph Fiala (c. 1754-1816), oboist in Prague, Regensburg, Wallerstein, Munich, Vienna, Salzburg, St. Petersburg, Donaueschingen. Also composed. Cf. Nos. 0485/67; 0529/7.

<sup>17</sup> BD: Cf. No. 0497, lost.

<sup>18</sup> BD: Johann Baptist Becké (1743-1817), flautist in the court music in Munich, kept the Mozarts informed about developments there. Cf. No. 0333/20 etc.

<sup>19</sup> BD: His return had already been anticipated for the 10<sup>th</sup> August (cf. No. 0464/103-105), for the end of August (cf. No. 0478/138), for the 15<sup>th</sup> September (cf. No. 0482/51-52), and for the end of September (cf. No. 0487/132-133).

<sup>20</sup> BD: He had recently visited Leopold. Cf. No. 0485/67 ff.

<sup>21</sup> BD: Elector Maximilian III Joseph of Bavaria had died childless on 30<sup>th</sup> December, 1777.

<sup>22</sup> BD: Cf. lines 66 ff.; the problem had already been mentioned in No. 0480/32 ff.

<sup>23</sup> BD: No. 0498, lost.

<sup>24</sup> 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 Mannheim and then Munich.

<sup>25</sup> BD: Guldens and florins have the same value.

<sup>26</sup> “in der deutschen Comoedie”.

<sup>27</sup> BD: Of the united Mannheim and Munich orchestras. It is not known if and when the list was sent.

<sup>28</sup> BD: No. 0492, lost.

<sup>29</sup> BD: Johann Georg Scherz, Strasbourg correspondent for the Salzburg mercantile firm Haffner, cf. No. 0490/56-57, 68, 70.

me on the 9<sup>th</sup> that you had not yet arrived, that the coach director had replied to their enquiry that you had stayed in Nancy with a number of travelling companions<sup>31</sup> etc: – [75] when you write<sup>32</sup> to me from Nancy on the 3<sup>rd</sup> that the merchant had left the coach with you in Nancy and that you had a good opportunity, which did not cost much, to go to Strassburg the next day. – What should, what could we all think after you had not reached Strassburg within 6 days other than that you had fallen ill, – or the supposed merchant might perhaps have been a robber, a rogue etc., [80] and I am still living in this indescribable state of anxiety, since I still have no letter from you today, the 19<sup>th</sup> October; I wait with longing for a letter: – and yet I tremble, as do all of us, as the postman comes because I am afraid of terrible news. Every time *Bullinger* comes in, I observe his facial expression most attentively, [85] whether he perhaps has my death sentence in his hands. Now I have had 4 sleepless nights, – the nights are utterly difficult, very difficult, my son! I fear them, and am glad when day dawns |: although now unfortunately very late :|. Yet a single tiny gleam of some very slight hope shines out of the words of your letter to grant me some minutes of calm [90] when you write: – yet I believe that if I were well-known here I would like to stay here, since the town is indeed charming; – fine houses, fine broad streets and superb squares etc., since Abbé Henry<sup>33</sup> now tells me there is a theatre and a concert room in *Nancy*. I could furthermore not imagine that you would not visit [95] a *capellmeister, music directeur, organist* etc: or an *organ* in such a presentable place. I thus hoped to myself that you would have made an acquaintance and found an opportunity to stay there for some days and rest, since you know that we always did this on our journeys and at least visited the organs in the churches. May God grant that it has happened so! [100] I would like to get my terrible mortal fear behind me. I immediately confessed and took communion along with your sister and prayed to God insistently for your preservation. That best of men, *Bullinger*, prayed for you daily at Holy Mass and, amid all these terrors, I still had the presence of mind |: which does not abandon me easily :| [105] to write<sup>34</sup> to Frank Brothers on the same day and make an extract of your letter<sup>35</sup> for them so that they might know the circumstances in more detail as you described them to me and be able to fetch news in *Nancy* if |: God forbid :| your absence continued. Now you see that I am writing the present letter in the hope that you will arrive safe and sound in Augsp., [110] and I recommend that you travel to Munich by the safest of all possible means, since it is only 3 days ago that 2 French merchants were here who had been attacked at night by bright moonlight near Plattling<sup>36</sup> in Bavaria, where they lost a chest. Take care of your health. I am anxiously awaiting a letter which, by the time you read this, [115] I will meanwhile hopefully have and be freed from my anxiety. I and Nannerl kiss you a million times – I can hardly wait for the hour when I see you, and I am your anxious father

Mozart

Everyone, especially Herr *Bullinger*, commends themselves.

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<sup>30</sup> BD: No. 0499, lost.

<sup>31</sup> BD: Cf. No. 0494/36 ff.

<sup>32</sup> BD: Cf. No. 0494/52 ff.

<sup>33</sup> BD: Cf. note on No. 0352/38. The ex-Jesuit “Abbé” Henri.

<sup>34</sup> BD: No. 0499a, lost.

<sup>35</sup> BD: No. 0494.

<sup>36</sup> BD: In Lower Bavaria between Regensburg and Passau.